

Hafa Adai!

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FIRST DAI

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PH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Children take turns hitting a pot filled with candy during the annual *Pistang Pinoy* Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza's parking area that was held as part of the celebration of the 121st Philippine Independence Day. The actual Philippine Independence Day falls on June 12.

MARC VENUS

PSS teachers study options

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Contrary to talks about holding a public protest or march, Public School System teachers secluded themselves yesterday at the Marianas High School cafeteria to discuss a recent Board of Education decision to slash previous salary hikes.

This was their second time to meet since last June 6, 2019.

Starting at about 4:45pm yesterday, several PSS teachers gathered at the MHS campus cafeteria to convene about the recent salary increase reductions that were imposed on all PSS employees, as approved by the Board of Education last June 5, 2019.

Organizers asked reporters to step out of the meeting to encourage the
See PSS on Page 4

FEMA estimates \$135M for NMI

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated an estimated total of over \$135 million in public assistance funds to the

CNMI government to help defray the costs and other losses from Super Typhoon Yutu.

FEMA Office of External Affairs representative Todd Hoose told *Saipan Tribune* that the total

See FEMA on Page 4

Workers hope for administrative fix

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

It has come to this.

With only 18 days left before they lose their immigration status on June 29, foreign workers under the categorical parole or those with em-

ployment authorization documents are hoping the U.S. Department of Homeland Security would provide an administrative fix so they could legally remain and work in the CNMI.

There is the hope that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would use his "connec-
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1 to 2 typhoons possible this year

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, projects a 50-percent

» 1 or more severe tropical storms possible

chance of a more active-than-normal season for this year's typhoon season. According to a prediction report

from the NWS, they predict that this year's typhoon season could be
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INSIDE



LOCAL

Serenity Salon and Spa has reopened on the second floor of Dollar Days in Garapan.

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ASIA

Hong Kong will go ahead with amendments to its extradition laws after a massive protest.

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LIFE & STYLE

After 25 years, O.J. Simpson says his life has entered a "no negative zone."

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Local

Pacific veterans gather on Saipan for annual convention



At the opening ceremony of the 53rd Department of Pacific Areas Convention and the 50th Grand Pacific or Military Order of the Cooties Convention at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. From left, senior vice commander Rick Farris, Military Order of the Cooties commander Bill Bradford, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, junior vice commander-in-chief Hal Roesch II, Department of Pacific Areas commander Michael Verville, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, general secretary MD Ret. Yang Jia-Ren, junior vice commander Ken Stein, and Department of Pacific Areas chaplain Ron Davis.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA

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CORRESPONDENT

U.S. military veterans who were stationed in different parts of the Pacific, including the CNMI, while in active service are currently on Saipan to attend the Veterans of Foreign Wars' 53rd Department of Pacific Areas Convention and the 50th Grand Pacific or Military Order of the Cooties Convention.

Both conventions started yesterday and will run until Thursday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

This is the second time both conventions were held on Saipan; the last one was in 2004.

Michael "Mike" Verville, commander of the Department of Pacific Areas, said the conventions are held annually to tend to the different businesses and activities that the VFA does every year.

"Our primary mission is to help veterans and also to help the community such as support events and help upgrade schools," he said. "We annually move to a different location in our area (Pacific). ... Whenever there is a need, we get involved and it is always on a grant basis and not on a loan basis because it never has to be paid back..."

Retired U.S. Air Force and DPA adjutant Jerry Chaplin said the five-day convention has a full agenda. That includes electing and installing a new set of DPA officers and talking about the budget for the following year, such as how much money is coming in and how much was spent.

According to outgoing grand commander of the Grand Pacific or Cooties William "Bill" Bradford, the Military Order of the Cootie is recognized as a subordinate and auxiliary order to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"Our biggest motto is 'keep them smiling in beds of white' as we do hospital business. Whenever we hear veterans are in the hospital, we visit them. ... They might not see any visitors at all and that's what we do—we come in to keep them smiling," he said.

The group tries to do it every month in Guam, the CNMI, and possibly Palau.

The DPA is active in different countries or territories such as South Korea, Japan, Saipan, Guam, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Australia. Membership is at 12,028 right now.

Verville said they also pushed issues on toxic agents that affected Blue Water Navy composed of Viet-

namese, Thai, and Korean veterans that served during Vietnam era. One of that

was called "Agent Orange," a chemical used by the U.S. military as part of its herbi-



Brad Ruszala, public affairs specialist for the CNMI Joint Region Marianas Coordination Office, and Department of Pacific Areas commander Michael Verville at the opening ceremony of the 53rd Department of Pacific Areas Convention and the 50th Grand Pacific or Military Order of the Cooties Convention at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

BEA CABRERA

cidal warfare program during the Vietnam War.

"...They were never 'boots on the ground' and as a result, they were not given benefits. ... In 1991, the Office of General Council of Veterans Affairs put a stipulation and a technical term 'boots on the ground' where one must have been in and touched the ground in Vietnam to receive any of the benefits..."

"On Jan. 29 this year, the federal court overturned that decision of over 10 years. ... The decision has become a part of the law of the land," he added.

Verville said that there are about a 100,000 veterans in the Pacific who will benefit from that case. "Many did tours in

Vietnam on ships. Now they can start filing claims and be considered for that. I am one of those Blue Water Navy vets. I have diabetes, I can't see on my left eye die to glaucoma and those are all sub-diseases as a result of 'Agent Orange.' Now I am glad I can go in and get treatment 100 percent."

The opening of the Saipan conventions were attended by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

Verville said that more than \$30,000 was donated to the CNMI to help the veterans in this community after Super Typhoon Yutu. "Donations came from the department level, districts and many veterans from our posts donated individually," he added.

CNMI Nurses Week starts

By ERWIN ENCINARES

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REPORTER

The 2019 CNMI Nurses Week officially started last Sunday, June 9, with the theme, "3,000 Reasons to celebrate CNMI Nurses Week."

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed the CNMI Nurses Week proclamation last Friday morning, declaring June 9, 2019, to June 15, 2019, as CNMI Nurses Week and honoring what is considered as the nation's largest healthcare profession comprising nearly 4.1 million professional nurses in the U.S.

"On behalf of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, we want to extend a thank you from a grateful community," Palacios said in his brief remarks. Palacios shared that he, too, can relate to the struggles of those in the medical field since he grew up in a medical family.

"In retrospect, really thinking about all the nurses that

have taken care of the people in this community...you folks are really amazing," Palacios added.

Sen. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) noted that one week to celebrate nurses isn't enough.

"...You should have a month [or a] year," he said in his remarks. "The work you [nurses] do is just superb. Society can't live without nurses."

Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), who represented the House of Representatives at the proclamation signing, credits the dedication, compassion, and the perseverance of nurses for giving "the best of the best to patients who you see day in and day out."

"The nurses that we have staffing the islands' medical centers are by far some of the best I've seen," he said. "Each and every one of you hold a very important position in healthcare here."

SHRM meeting to tackle EQ in the workplace

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter invites its members, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to attend its general membership meeting on June 20, 2019, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's beginning at 11am.

The meeting will feature University of Guam's Dr. John

Rivera discussing emotional intelligence in the workplace.

Rivera, Guam's first and only MBTI master practitioner and MBTI certified Step III practitioner and an emotional intelligence (EQ-i)-certified practitioner, will offer insight into emotional intelligence and its significance and impact on workplace interactions.

This meeting is open to the public and will provide invaluable information for employers, managers, and HR professionals and staff. The presentation includes Giovanni's lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by

e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at <http://nmichapter.shrm.org>. (PR)

'Johnson settlement didn't resolve CUC's \$4.4M liabilities to Fund'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The NMI Settlement Fund trustee insists that the 2013 settlement in the Betty Johnson class action did not extinguish the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s \$4.4 million liability with the Retirement Fund.

Nicole M. Torres-Ripple, counsel for the NMI Settlement Fund, disclosed that CUC asked the Superior Court last May 8 to dismiss the Retirement Fund's pending lawsuit against CUC.

Torres-Ripple said the CNMI government joined in the motion to dismiss, arguing for the first time that the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action resolved CUC's liabilities in the Superior Court lawsuit.

Because of this, the Settlement Fund filed a motion Saturday, asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an order enforcing the Johnson settlement agreement and finding that the claims asserted in the Superior Court case were not resolved by that settlement deal.

The then-NMI Retirement Fund sued CUC in 2011 for alleged failure to pay a total of \$4.4 million in employer contributions, penalties, and

economic damages. The federal court remanded the case to the Superior Court in August 2012.

In 2013, the U.S. District Court for the NMI gave final approval to the global settlement agreement in Johnson's

class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

With the final approval, all Retirement Fund assets were transferred to the Settlement Fund, administered by a court-appointed trustee.

In the Settlement Fund trustee's motion to enforce final judgment, Torres-Ripple said that in August 2017, the Retirement Fund, CUC, CNMI, and the Settlement Fund agreed to substitute the Settlement Fund as

the plaintiff in the Superior Court action.

Torres-Ripple said the substitution was based on the Retirement Fund's assignment and transfer of all rights, title, and interest in and to the claims in this matter to

the Settlement Fund pursuant to the Johnson's settlement agreement.

The Superior Court approved the substitution on Aug. 16, 2017.

Torres-Ripple pointed out that, by the express terms of the Johnson settlement agreement, the District Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters arising under that settlement deal, including its interpretation.

Torres-Ripple said the plain language of the settlement agreement specifically excludes the assignment of rights to collect deficient employer contributions relating to the rights and liabilities in the Superior Court action from the CNMI.



Members of the MHS Filipino Club and the United Filipino Organization pose for a picture during the *Pistang Pinoy* event last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza's parking area. The MHS Filipino Club took first place in the *Pistang Pinoy*'s dance competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dizon is Pistang Pinoy singing champ

By **MARC VENUS**
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REPORTER

Bernie Dizon was named champion at the 2019 *Pistang Pinoy* singing competition last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

As the winner, Dizon pocketed \$300.

Dizon is no stranger to the *Pistang Pinoy* singing competition, having won second place in last year's singing competition.

Coming in second place was John Singson, who was awarded \$200. Completing the Top 3 was Ronilo De Bel-

en, who was awarded \$100.

This year's singing contest had a twist: the requirement to join the competition was to be 45 years old or older.

Another Sunday highlight was the dance competition, which followed the singing contest. The competition was

open to children, adults, and the elderly who wanted to showcase their talents and win a couple of hundred dollars.

The first place winner was the Marianas High School Filipino Club, which was awarded \$500.

In second place was the Silver Stepper group, which was awarded \$300.

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Power generator now on Rota

The 1.8-megawatt generator that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. bought in response to an electric power emergen-

cy on Rota is already on the island and has been placed on its slab, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho

yesterday.

Camacho said the contractor is just waiting for the electrical cables; they are expected to be delivered today, Tuesday.

"The installation of the fuel lines is currently being performed," Camacho added.

He did not indicate the contractor's completion date target.

The entire project is worth \$690,000.

The CUC board approved the selection of the International Bridge and Construc-

tion Marianas Inc. to procure, deliver, and install the generator.

IBCM has failed to meet the extended May 19, 2019

deadline to install the generator after it allegedly encountered some issues in delivering the unit from the U.S. mainland to Rota. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

CAO, DYS to host summer camp

By MARC VENUS
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REPORTER

The Carolinian Affairs Office and the Division of Youth Services will be co-hosting two summer camps this summer for children ages 6 to 12.

The first camp will be from July 8 to July 18 at the Tanapag Youth Center, while the second camp will be from July 22 to Aug. 1 at the San Isidro Youth Learning Center. Both camps will be from 7:30am to 11:30am.

Slots are limited to 65 per camp, to be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. DYS and CAO are encouraging participants to submit applications as soon as possible.

Both CAO and DYS are also looking for volunteers ages 13 and up, preferably youth volunteers because they want to focus on peer-on-peer

support. Volunteers will be oriented on ground rules and procedures before the start of both camps.

This summer camp, to be called Summer Youth Empowerment Camp, will not only focus on sports and arts as it did in previous years. It will also share presentations about mental health awareness and survival skills such as planting and net fishing.

Participation is free; snacks will be provided.

Forms are available at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan and the Division of Youth Services offices in Chalan Piao between 8am to 4pm.

Interested participants are encouraged to submit applications to CAO or DYS by Friday, June 21, 4pm.

For more information, contact CAO at (670) 234-6385 or DYS at (670) 237-1016.

PH honorary consul to host flag-raising

The Office of the Philippine Honorary Consul to the CNMI will be hosting an annual Philippine flag-raising ceremony in celebration of the 121st Philippine Independence Day on Wednesday, June 12, at Kanoa Resort. The event will begin at 7am.

Members of the Filipino organizations in the CNMI will be meeting in Kanoa Resort at 6:30am.

Messages from President Rodrigo Duterte and other Philippine officials will be read at the event.

"This is event is for all the Filipinos in the CNMI to show their nationalism," said Phil-

ippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago, who will also be doing the welcoming remarks.

CNMI government officials are also invited to the event, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Filipinos are encouraged to wear *barong Tagalog* and *Filipiana* dress as a sign of their heritage and respect.

The theme for this year's Independence Day is "Courage of the nation, compassion for the people."

For more information about the event, contact Annamae Adaza at (670) 285-4388. (*Marc Venus*)

TYPHOONS

From Page 1

similar to last year's, which saw Tinian and Saipan ravaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October and Rota crippled by Typhoon Mangkhut in September.

"Our predictions for the overall risk of a tropical cyclone affecting Rota, Tinian, or Saipan are similar to those for 2018," the NWS report stated.

The report also stated that there is, however, a 40-percent chance of a normal season and a 10-percent chance of a less active season.

Currently, the Marianas has transitioned into the waning stages of a weak El Niño and most climate forecast models suggest the Marianas will remain in an El Niño state, either weak or moderate, until the end of the year.

El Niño is defined as an irregularly occurring and com-

plex series of climatic changes affecting the Pacific region.

In 2018, the Pacific region experienced 36 tropical cyclones. Many of the tropical depressions from last year formed across Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and a couple in the Marshall Islands, while the major typhoons occurred near the Marianas and over the Philippine Sea to the west.

The most notorious storms of last year, according to NWS,

were Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut, which both directly impacted the CNMI.

NWS predicts more tropical cyclone activity than in 2016 and 2017, but about the same activity as in 2018; however, the predictions could change later in the year.

The predictions, although specifically focused on the Marianas, may also affect neighboring islands so islands across Micronesia should expect a season similar to 2018.

FEMA

From Page 1

estimated amount of damage to the CNMI following Yutu's wake could reach over \$800 million. He said that FEMA and other federal agencies have a number of grant programs as part of their direct disaster expense.

He added that the projected numbers—funding and programs—are all estimates that are projected until they end their commitment to the Commonwealth, which could be years from now.

"Our housing programs alone include the Permanent Housing Construction, temporary emergency housing—Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair—and tenting [Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support]. We also have the public assistance grant program estimates in \$200 million and the Hazard Miti-

gation Grant Program, which accounts for over \$72 million," said Hoose.

FEMA has also dispensed a total of \$69.3 million to victims of the super typhoon, with \$34.7 million in assistance given to individuals and households, while another \$17.5 million was provided for housing assistance. Other assistance needs for various programs reached another \$17.1 million.

FEMA also provided the CNMI government with public assistance grants that are earmarked for projects proposed to them and identified by the Office of the Governor. The total projected cost of public assistance is \$212 million while FEMA has currently obligated \$135 million to the Commonwealth government. The estimated HMGP funds is pegged at \$72 million.

Hoose reminds that these are only estimates. "We also have the public assistance grant program estimates in

\$200 million and the HMGP, which accounts for over \$72 million. Even these dollar amounts will be deceptive as they could eventually be higher to due to meeting potential increased costs of code compliance in construction or previously unidentified damage."

"The numbers could also be lower if every potential projects and individual recipients of services do not utilize the full benefit offered them. There are even additional FEMA mitigation funds that will be applied and added to some projects, if opportunities present themselves in the future. There are a lot of moving parts and opportunities in disaster assistance."

Other programs, projects

Hoose also said that FEMA's housing programs and projects are still ongoing and they had just finished installing the roof for the 48th damaged home while windows and doors are

just arriving on Saipan. Three organizations are also in the CNMI, with one assigned to Tinian to help the VALOR projects that need to finished.

"The [VALOR] program provides operational support to voluntary agencies performing work and services essential to sustaining life and protecting health, safety, and property. Voluntary agencies perform minor emergency repairs to homes that enable residents to return or remain in their homes for shelter while awaiting permanent repairs. PHC repair is [also] moving along and the contractor is on the island assessing the individual properties that will be repaired in the first batch," said Hoose.

"The PA projects—roads, power, schools, government buildings, etc.—are just completing their assessments of projects. HMGP will add another \$72 million for mitigation projects and improvements."

PSS

From Page 1

teachers to speak without "fear of being quoted in the media."

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and former BOE chair Herman Guerrero were also spotted at the meeting.

About 40 PSS staff were present at the meeting when *Saipan Tribune* stepped out.

An unverified report of a teacher walkout for today was reportedly scheduled for discussion at the meeting. It was not confirmed, however, as of publication.

Earlier in the day, at about 3pm, a handful of teachers and private citizens lined the road at the Civic Center in Susupe, holding up signs stating, "WTF: Where's the funds?" "Education 1st," "Issue the subpoena now," and "Return illegal OT," among other signs.

WORKERS

From Page 1

tions" with the administration of President Donald Trump to make that administrative fix happen.

There is a bill in the U.S. Congress—H.R. 559 or the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act—that would resolve these affected workers' situation but, just in case the bill fails to pass the Senate, "we're calling on Gov. Torres...to write [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] so they could have an administrative decision and grant us an extension," said foreign worker advocate Itos Feliciano.

"The [June 29] deadline is near, just 18 days away. For now, we can be considered as assets of the U.S. federal government because we also pay taxes. But, after June 29, we're going to be a liability once we lose our legal status," added Feliciano.

He pointed out that some officials had wanted to grant legal and permanent status to some 2 million illegal and undocumented immigrants in the U.S. mainland under the proposed Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy.

"Here in the CNMI, we are legal taxpayers. And yet, they [federal government] want us out or remove our legal status. In the U.S. mainland, they wanted to give citizenship status to those DACA Dreamers. The kids here in the CNMI are natural-born citizens, [yet] they want to strip them of their

rights and remove from the land of their birth. Where is justice in this situation?"

Feliciano has called for meetings with foreign workers from Bangladesh, China, and the Philippines that are under the program or EAD holders to discuss their next steps.

USCIS terminated the categorical parole program and EAD in late December last year, giving individuals under these programs a transition window of 180 days to obtain another immigration status in order to remain and work in the CNMI legally.

The termination will affect the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and caregivers of CNMI residents.

The 180-day window ends on June 29, Saturday. A total of 1,038 individuals must either leave the CNMI or should have transitioned to other valid U.S. work visas in order to remain in the Commonwealth legally.

H.R. 559 or the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act, a bill introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in the U.S. House of Representatives, would give them permanent residency status in the CNMI once it is signed into law by Trump. It passed the House last week but it still needs to hurdle the Republican-majority U.S. Senate.

OAG moves to dismiss Manila suit vs DOC officials

The Office of the Attorney General has moved to dismiss with finality the third amended complaint of inmate

Reynaldo A. Manila against former Department of Corrections commissioner Robert Guerrero and two other

DOC officials over the blindness of his left eye.

Assistant attorney general Hessel Yntema, counsel for

Guerrero and DOC officials Jose K. Pangelinan and Georgia M. Cabrera, said Manila makes two claims against the three.

Yntema said the first claim against Guerrero and Pangelinan was filed after the two-year statute of limitations deadline.

She said for more than two

years before Manila's actions was initiated, the plaintiff knew about his alleged vision loss and knew about one defendant's alleged deliberate indifference no later than Dec. 29, 2015.

The government lawyer said Manila filed his complaint over two years later.

Yntema said the second claim, against Cabrera, fails to allege a serious harm that resulted from the alleged delay in treatment of a cataract.

As this is Manila's third amended complaint, Yntema asked the court dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice, which means Manila would no longer be able to re-file the lawsuit. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

'Prudent spending necessary

If there's any good news at all, it is that it's not like the CNMI economy is back at where it was in 2011 and 2012. With prudent controls, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) believes it may still be possible to stay above water.

Blanco, the House Ways and Means Committee chairman, said his committee has been holding deliberations on the budget for fiscal year 2020 "and it seems to be the numbers close to the 2017 budget."

"So we just have to tighten the nuts. ... We just need to exercise prudent control; it is going to be a little painful. But, starting today, we have to exercise our prudent measures, then I think we will be okay," he said.

In line with this, he is advis-

ing the government to watch every penny it spends in the wake of additional austerity measures and the implementation of reduced working hours, most recently at the Executive Branch.

Blanco pointed out that budget cuts have already been implemented in the fiscal year 2019 budget and are going to be built into the fiscal year 2020 budget.

Last month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued a directive where all agencies and departments under his office would cease operations every payday Friday starting on July 5. The implementation of the 72-hour work schedule starts on the June 23 to July 5 pay period.

Blanco's 13-member committee, which scrutinizes the

proposed expenditures of the government, has already met with officials of the CNMI State Public School System, the Municipality of Tinian and Aguigan, the Municipality of Rota, the Judiciary, the Department of Public Safety, the Northern Marianas College, and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

"We have spoken to agencies. When we analyzed their budgets, there were a lot of discrepancies. So, they [PSS,

Tinian, Judiciary, DPS, NMC, and CHCC] were the first agencies that we wanted to look at. We asked them, 'this is your budget request and this is the governor's submission. We see a gap. What have you done in trying to align it with the governor's proposal?' Because, the governor's proposal is based on projections on whatever revenues we are going to get."

The government's collections have yet to meet its pro-

jections, despite a 3-percent revenue increase in the second quarter of the current fiscal year. Blanco said that Finance Secretary David Atalig, during one of their hearings, said the government is low on cash.

"He [Atalig] said we just don't have the cash necessary to disburse allotments to the agencies at the moment. Whatever cash he has, he has to balance it. He has to balance it so that everybody gets something." **(Jon Perez)**

Cap reached for additional H-2B visas for FY 2019

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to reach the additional maximum 30,000 visas made available for returning workers under the H-2B numerical limit (also called a cap) for fiscal year 2019.

As previously announced, USCIS began accepting H-2B petitions on May 8 under the temporary final rule increasing the cap by up to 30,000 additional H-2B nonimmigrant visas for returning workers through the end of FY 2019.

USCIS will reject and return any cap-subject petitions received after June 5, together with any accompanying filing fees.

USCIS will continue to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes petitions for:

- Current H-2B workers in the United States petitioning to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;

- Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

- Workers performing labor or services in the CNMI and/or Guam from Nov. 28, 2009, until Dec. 31, 2029.

Premium processing

On June 10, USCIS began premium processing for all remaining FY 2020 H-1B cap-subject petitions. Starting on that date, petitioners may file Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service, with the USCIS service center that is processing their petition.

On March 19, USCIS announced that it would offer premium processing in a two-phased approach during the FY

2020 cap season to best manage premium processing requests without fully suspending it.

In the past few years, USCIS suspended all premium processing for H-1B petitions due to high demand. Based on feedback from the public, it is using this phased approach to benefit petitioners and ensure efficient premium processing.

The first phase, which started on May 20, included FY 2020 cap-subject H-1B petitions requesting a change of status and the second phase includes all other FY 2020 cap-subject petitions.

At this time, premium processing for H-1B petitions that are exempt from the cap, such as extension of stay requests, remains available.

Prepaid mailer temporary suspension

Starting on June 10 and continuing through the end of June 24, USCIS will not use prepaid mailers to send out final notices for premium processing for FY 2020 cap-subject H-1B petitions not requesting a change of status. Instead, it will use regular mail. We will be doing this due to resource limitations as we work to process all premium processing petitions in a timely manner.

The process for printing approval notices and sending them by regular mail is fully automated. As such, and given the initial surge of premium processing requests for H-1B cap petitions and its impact on USCIS resources, using prepaid mailers may actually delay the issuance of an approval notice. After the two-week period, we intend to resume sending out final notices in prepaid mailers provided by petitioners, when operationally feasible. **(USCIS)**

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500 Sails to offer free swim, sail lessons on Tinian

Non-profit organization 500 Sails is headed to Tinian this summer to host water activities for both children and adults.

Canoes *Neni*, *Richard Seman*, and the newest addition, *Jun*, will set sail to Tinian on July 28, 2019. The 500 Sails team will be on island until Friday, Aug. 2.

Tinian Sakman Summer

500 Sails is partnering with Typhoon Sports Association and NMC-CREES 4-H Marianas Tinian to host a weeklong summer program that aims to provide introductory lessons to swimming and sailing.

Tinian Sakman Summer is free and open to kids in grades K-12 and will run from

7:30am to 11:30am from July 29 to Aug. 1, at Tachonga Beach, with breakfast and lunch provided by PSS.

To register, email joan.flores@marianas.edu.

Dolphin Club Saipan Tinian

While on Tinian, 500 Sails will provide adult swim classes through Dolphin Club



In this file photo, master navigator Cecilio Raiukiulipiy and 500 Sails director Pete Perez sail the canoe *Richard Seman* to Tinian for the 2019 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Weightlifting contest moved to July 27

The 2019 CNMI Weightlifting Championship has been rescheduled and will be held on July 27, a Saturday, at the Minachom Attao pavilion in Susupe, starting at 10am.

Registration deadline is noon of June 25, 2019, to be delivered to Greg Borja or Jeanne Rayphand at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. office in Gualo Rai. Entry fee is \$10, while the admission fee is \$5.

For more information, contact Borja at 787 6642 or Rayphand at 287-9807. **(PR)**

Vote for Yvette Bennett in swimsuit tilt

The U.S. National Miss Bikini Swimsuit & Fitness Competition that Yvette Bennett has entered will be held this July 9 to 12 in Miami, Florida. She and

her family are urging the CNMI to help her by voting for her for the “People’s Choice Award,” which will give her additional points in the Miss Bikini Swimsuit & Fitness Competition. To vote, log on to www.missbikinius.com. **(PR)**

Walk of honor to mark 75 years since the Battles for Saipan and Tinian

On Friday, June 14, 2019, the Committee for the 75th Anniversary of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian invites the community to come together on the eve of Saipan’s Invasion Day to remember the sacrifices made by so many 75 years ago. Participants will be provided an LED candle (adults) or glow-in-the-dark bracelet (youth).

Registration will begin at 5:30pm at the Veterans Memorial at Kilili Beach, followed

by a brief program at 6pm, and the walk at 6:30pm. Walkers will head north along the Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway and turn around at the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road. Along the way there will be water stops and activity stations. The winners of the Memorial Day poetry, art, and wreath competitions will have their work on display.

If you have questions about the walk, call the American Memorial Park Visitor Center at 234-7207 x 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. **(NPS)**

Military training at Dandan, Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan up to June 13, from

11am to 11pm. This type of training is designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training.

The U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 12, from 8am to 9pm
- June 13, and 14, from 10:30am to 9pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be within a 12- nautical mile radius of the island. **(PR)**

Center in Susupe, with a theme “Proclaiming Jesus is Lord.”

This year’s guest speaker will be Pastor Abigail Corpuz, Area Pastor of Area 5, JIL West USA supervising Hawaii, Saipan and Guam. She is visiting Saipan for the first time with her husband and daughter.

The Jesus is Lord Church Saipan is located in San Vicente/ Dandan Village with over 150 members of different nationalities. Community members are encouraged to join the celebration. For more information or to obtain a ride to the event, call 670-989-8053. **(PR)**

Writers’ workshop on June 15 at JKPL

Walt F.J. Goodridge will be leading a writers’ workshop on June 15, 2019, from 9am to 12pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library’s video teleconference room. Admission is \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door (\$5 for students with ID). Twenty percent of admission proceeds will be donated directly to the library on the day of the event. Seating is limited. To register, visit the front desk of the library. For more information, and to see some success stories from past workshops, visit www.saipan-writers.com. **(PR)**

writers.com. **(PR)**

Guam Chamoru commission meetings set

The Kumisión i Fino’ CHamoru yan i Fina’ña’guen i Historia yan i Lina’la’ Taotao Tãno’ (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its monthly meetings on June 13, and 20, 2019, from 12:30pm to 3pm at the Kumision office, The Garden House, Plasa de Espana, Hagatna.

A work session will be held on June 27, 2019, from 12:30pm to 3pm, at the same venue.

For further information call commission chair Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or commission secretary Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. **(PR)**


Time management training set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions will be hosting a training on time management at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 26, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required as seating is limited. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. **(PR)**

Joint inauguration in FSM in July 29

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Federated States of Micronesia president David W. Panuelo, in consultation with FSM Congress Speaker Wesley Simina, has decided to hold the joint inauguration ceremony on July 29, at the FSM Capitol in Palikir, Pohnpei. The FSM government will welcome traditional leaders, leaders from neighbor and partner nations, dignitaries, government officials, and citizens of the FSM who will witness this event.

The FSM Information Services will provide thorough public information on the joint inauguration ceremony as the details on the planning and organization for the event become clear and finalized. **(PR)**



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INVITATION FOR BID

ITB19-GOV-092

Repair and Renovation of the Public Assistance Office Building
FEMA DR-4235-MP PA PW 10

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of the Public Assistance Office Building Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available June 3, 2019, at the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on June 7, 2019, at 1:00pm ChST at the proposed Public Assistance Office Capital Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing on or before June 12, 2019, to the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, by email to: patrickguerrero@pa.gov.mp, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked *ITB19-GOV-092 Repair and Renovation of the Public Assistance Office Building*. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:30 a.m. ChST June 17, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:30 a.m. ChST June 24, 2019, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidol.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 17, 2019, and the bid documents must be received no later than June 24, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:30 a.m. ChST June 25, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:30a.m. ChST June 17, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred and twenty calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/s/ Jack Reyes, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Search for San Vicente intruder continues

A week since the home invasion in San Vicente that left a woman and teenager bruised and beaten, the search continues to find the assailant, according to the Department of Public Safety.

In a statement from DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan last Friday, he said that detectives are still investigating the case and are looking into all leads. "At this point, we do not have any identification [yet] of the assailant," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the Blas residence in San Vicente was entered into by a masked intruder who knocked two members of

the household unconscious, and one of the victims was reportedly beaten as she tried to fight off the intruder.

One victim was a 28-year-old woman and the other was a 14-year-old male.

DPS received a call at about 3:43pm on June 2 reporting a disturbance that was in progress at San Vicente.

At about 3:49pm, a police vehicle was making its way to the reported residence, an individual by the side of the road flagged it down. The individual told police that they were struck with an object that knocked them out but they later regained consciousness.

At about 3:52pm, a second police vehicle arrived and made its way toward the residence where officers met with

the victim who made the call.

Officers learned that the female victim was asleep when she was awakened by the

weight of a person over her.

The victim told police that she fought back as the suspect hit her several times but she then lost consciousness.

The victim said that, once she regained consciousness,

she called 911 for assistance.

The victim was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was seen and admitted. The victim reportedly remains stable and responsive. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

USAO wants \$21,625 paid to victims of false solicitations

The U.S. Attorney's Office asked the federal court last Thursday to instruct the clerk of court to disburse \$21,625 in restitution funds to several victims of a man who was convicted and sentenced in 1991 for conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Terrence Ross Seed was convicted of soliciting donations from various businesses and persons on Saipan and in Guam under the pretense that he was

associated with an established charitable organization.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jessica Wessling, counsel for the U.S. government, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that there are 216 restitution victims remaining who have not received full restitution and whose losses range from \$20 to \$1,150 each.

Of these unpaid victims,

35 have provided updated addresses for payments.

Wessling said the total amount received from Seed, which remains in the court registry for application toward restitution, is \$21,625.

On Oct. 28, 1991, then-District Court chief judge Alex Munson sentenced Seed and ordered him to pay \$51,300 in restitution.

Wessling said that the U.S.

government placed a notice of unclaimed funds in the *Saipan Tribune* and in the *Guam Daily Post* last Nov. 30, 2016, in an effort to identify victims and locate their addresses.

Wessling gave the court a list that of the businesses and/or individuals from whom Seed falsely solicited donations and the amount of restitution owed each victim. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

Application forms for LibDay float contest, concessions now available

The 2019 CNMI Liberation Day Committee is encouraging government agencies, businesses, community organizations, and individuals to be a part of the 2019 CNMI Liberation Day Parade and Festivities through its float competition or as a carnival vendor for the thousands that attend the island's marquee event.

"We invite our businesses, community leaders, and government departments to come and be a part of our Liberation Day Parade through either our float competition to compete for prizes or to be a food, drink, or arts and crafts vendor at our signature carnival event," said Liberation Day chair Joe Ayuyu Jr.

Prizes for the float competition is currently set at \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, \$1,000 for third place, and \$500 for fourth place.

"We have exciting activities lined up for our Liberation Festivities in July, and we want to continue putting on a great event for our community, especially as we continue our recovery and weather through these challenging times," said Liberation Day

vice chair Shayne Villanueva.

Applications for both the parade and concessions are now available at the Saipan Mayor's Office at the ground floor of the CTC building in Oleai and online at saipanmayor.net.

The deadline to submit applications for the parade/float participation is 4:30pm, June 20, 2019, at the Saipan Mayor's Office. Applications for concessions are currently being accepted now, but interested vendors are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible to ensure their spots on the carnival grounds.

"This truly is an event to bring the entire community together, so we encourage our businesses to participate as a vendor or to compete in our exciting float competition. We invite everyone to join us from June 27 to July 6, 2019, at the Garapan Fishing Base for our Liberation Day Festivities as we celebrate our freedom," said Mayor David M. Apatang.

For more information, visit saipanmayor.net or the 2019 CNMI Liberation Day Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CNMILiberationDay. **(PR)**

Cop sentenced to a year for criminal mischief

A police officer who allegedly damaged the window of a gaming arcade was given a suspended sentence of one year.

Vinnie Saures Inos Jr., 22, who pleaded guilty to criminal mischief (misdemeanor), was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for one day that he was given credit for already serving.

Inos was immediately placed on supervised probation following the sentencing hearing on Tuesday last week and will remain in supervised probation for three years.

While on probation, Inos is also required to serve 60 hours of community service, pay off a \$1,000 fine, \$25 court fee, and \$120 per year in probation fee.

Restitution of \$250 to the Orchid Poker Room and Rainbow

Room has already been paid.

Inos is also prohibited from having any contact with the gaming establishment and is prohibited from consuming any alcohol or illegal substance.

Inos was initially charged with two counts of criminal mischief, one being a felony, but upon accepting the prosecution's plea agreement, he was only charged with one count of criminal mischief and it was amended from criminal mischief (felony) to criminal mischief (misdemeanor).

According to court information, on Sept. 12, 2018, Inos threw objects at the the window of Orchid Poker Room and Rainbow Room, damaging them.

Inos said he was drunk and angry at that time. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**



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Elizabeth Balajadia is presented with Justice Award

The CNMI Judiciary presented Elizabeth Salas Balajadia, P.E. with the 2019 Justice Award last May 31 for her “continuous and distinguished” record of service for the completion of the Judiciary’s projects.

Balajadia, also known as “Liz,” is a professional engineer currently serving as the CNMI’s Capital Improvement Project administrator with the Executive Branch.

Balajadia’s contributions to the Guma’ Hustisia restoration efforts started in 2017 with the mold remediation project followed by the air-conditioning system shut down and repair work for damage sustained during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

“Balajadia’s guidance, professionalism, and tireless assistance through the most turbulent time for the Judiciary reflect her character and commitment to public service,” the Judiciary said in a statement. “Her involvement has provided great momentum to the Guma’ Hustisia’s re-opening.”

Balajadia herself described the project as “challenging” because the mechanical engineers need to be mindful of the project timeline and the budget.

“It is not an easy project because the damage to the structures as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu will affect the original design parameters of the HVAC system,” she said.

Balajadia thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, former lieutenant governor and now Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for allowing her to assist the



From left, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, Maria S. Balajadia, Justice Award recipient Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Fr. James S. Balajadia, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, and Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

Judiciary.

Justice John A. Manglona, representing the bench, thanked Balajadia for her work and service. “Liz has been a part of the Judiciary’s projects for more than two years now. We highly value her technical skills and recommendations and appreciate her participation in the weekly project meetings.”

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro presented the award after Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja proclaimed the recognition. Also present were Justice Perry B. Inos, Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, and Judiciary managers.

Balajadia holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a licensed professional



Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja reads the recognition while Justice Award recipient Elizabeth Balajadia, P.E., Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justice John A. Manglona look on.

engineer in civil engineering in the CNMI and Guam and is certified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration-construction safety and storm water. She served as a former chairperson for the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing, a member of the board of directors, and a member of the Zoning Board.

In addition to the ownership and management of a specialized consulting firm, Balajadia has served in various capacities and managed numerous infrastructure projects in both the public and private sectors.

She and her husband Victor have two children, Fr. James Balajadia and Maria. Their children also attended the award presentation.

Balajadia’s father, Judge Felipe A. Salas, served for many years in the Commonwealth Trial Court and the Trust Territory courts.

The recipient of the Justice Award is determined by a panel

Guam man pleads guilty to stealing corned beef

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Guam man has pleaded guilty to stealing cases of corned beef and canned mackerel.

Edwin Guiao Ocampo was the warehouse manager for 7-Day Supermarket and was accused of stealing more than \$12,000 worth of corned beef and mackerel. Court documents say he gave 10 cases of corned beef and two cases of canned mackerel to his co-defendant, a former employee at the store.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports Ocampo received a deferred plea agreement last week, which means the case will be expunged from his record if he stays out of trouble.

In addition to pleading guilty, Ocampo agreed to pay \$500 to the store owner. He must also stay away from the owner and the store for the next three years.

el of members of the bench. This year’s announcement culminated with various Judiciary programs held in May in celebration of the Judiciary’s 30th anniversary. The events included Law Day poster and essay contests, Drug Court Month activities, the Attorney General’s Cup Speech Competition, mock trial and various Justices/Judges in the Classroom visits. **(PR)**

Hawaii budget includes \$13M for Waikiki Beach restoration

HONOLULU (AP)—The state budget passed by the Hawaii Legislature includes funding for repairs at Waikiki Beach, officials said.

The legislature approved about \$13 million for improvements to the crumbling Royal Hawaiian seawall and other man-made structures at the state’s most visited beach, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Sunday.

“This is the largest appropriation for beach improvements on Oahu in recent memory. It allows us to move forward on several projects that have been discussed on and off for decades,” said Dolan Eversole of the University of Hawaii.

The \$13 million is sufficient to shore up the Royal Hawaiian seawall between the Waikiki Sheraton and Royal Hawaiian hotels and return a seawall to Kuhio Beach, which officials said have been failing for years.


Waikiki’s overhaul is scheduled to start in late summer or early fall. Previously there was no timeline for replacing the structures protecting the beach from erosion.

“There used to be a wait-and-see sentiment among some,” Eversole said. “But there has been a shift in overall perception, and people seem to feel that we can’t wait any longer to address these challenges.”

Waikiki Beach is considered the epicenter of tourism on Oahu, which last year had more than 5.9 million visitors, or about 60% of the state’s 10 million visitors. The visits generated more than \$8 billion in spending, or about 46% of \$17.8 billion in statewide spending, officials said.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority supports state efforts to protect Waikiki Beach.

“Today, it is one of the most renowned beaches in the world and is also tremendously important to the Hawaii brand image,” authority President Chris Tatum said.



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INVITATION FOR BID

ITB19-GOV-091

Repair and Renovation of the Evidence Preservation Building

FEMA DR-4235-MP PA PW 52

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the repair and renovation of the Evidence Preservation Building Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available June 3, 2019, at the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on June 7, 2019, at 9:00am ChST at the Evidence Preservation Building Susupe, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing on or before June 12, 2019, to the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, by email to: patrickguerrero@pa.gov.mp, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked *ITB19-GOV-091 Repair and Renovation of the Evidence Preservation Building*. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST June 17, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST June 24, 2019, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidol.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 17, 2019, and the bid documents must be received no later than June 24, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:00 a.m. ChST June 25, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST June 17, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:


- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred and twenty calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/s/ Jack Reyes, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE

DR-4235-MP | DR-4396-MP | DR-4409-MP

ADDENDUM #1

This Addendum is issued by the CNMI Public Assistance Office prior to Bid Closing Date to provide revisions, clarification or supplemental terms or conditions. All such revisions, clarifications or supplemental terms or conditions forms part of the Bid and Contract Documents, and amends the original Bid Documents titled:

Invitation for Bid:	Repair and Renovation for the Evidence Preservation Building
ITB No.:	ITB19-GOV-091
Date of Addendum:	June 4, 2019

Reason for Addendum: **Revisions for the Invitation To Bid Announcement**

/s/Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

14 CNMI students visit DC under Close Up program

Fourteen high school students from both public and private schools in the CNMI joined their peers in other Pacific jurisdictions last May to visit Washington, D.C. under the Close Up Insular Areas Program.

This social studies program is designed to give students and educators an inside look at democracy in action, using the nation's capitol as a living classroom. Participants get a "close up" view of government interacting with people, processes, and places that make the federal city unique.

In this year's edition, the CNMI students were joined by students from American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The U.S. Department of the Interior authorized \$1 million to fund the 2019 program.

Selection for the program is a rigorous selection process at the school level that includes an activity point system, essays, debates, and interviews.

Education specialist Claudia Palacios, who is the Public School System's Social Studies coordinator, said that, for this trip, CNMI students informed their peers of the unique government structure and relationship the CNMI has with the United States, "as well as to showcase our unique cultural heritage through song and dance; about how current issues in the community can be addressed through the lawmaking process, and suggested mental health awareness as an issue they would like addressed for our islands and proposed strategies toward a solution; and visited sites that are of historical importance."

"It is my hope that students who participate in the Close Up experience will be more actively involved in civic responsibility and the democratic system, and eventually to be future leaders of the CNMI," she added.

She stressed that the teacher experience is much more than just chaperoning the students. "Close Up engages teachers in utilizing our nation's capitol for educational enrichment," she said.

The trip was also supported by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann T. Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Star Sands Plaza-I Love Saipan, the CCLHS teacher team of Koblerville Elementary School, and Christiana Duenas of Marianas High School. (*Saipan Tribune*)



CNMI participants in the Close Up Insular Areas Program showcase the islands' unique cultural heritage through song and dance. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



High school students from both public and private schools in the CNMI visit the office of Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan in Washington, D.C. under the Close Up Insular Areas Program.



CNMI students participating in the Close Up Insular Areas Program visit the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration in New York City.



Fourteen high school students from both public and private schools in the CNMI pose in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. under the Close Up Insular Areas Program.

CNMI students participating in the Close Up Insular Areas Program suggest mental health awareness as an issue they would like addressed for our islands and proposed strategies toward a solution.



CNMI students inform their peers of the unique government structure and relationship the CNMI has with the United States.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Remember D-Day, to ensure it's not needed again

Even the youngest soldiers who stormed the beaches at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, and who live among us today are well into their 90s, so this 75th anniversary of D-Day is the final big observance before the memory barrier—the line that separates events lived and witnessed by people still able to talk about them and those that are known only through accounts from people who are no longer alive, or from stories retold by people who weren't there. D-Day's survivors are among the last ambassadors from the first half of the 20th century, an era when America at first rejected foreign entanglements but ultimately engaged.

The invasion itself—the slaughter, the horror, the heroics, the sacrifice—will soon take its place alongside Gettysburg or Saratoga as one of those long-ago battles that shaped who we are, but in ways we can't really fathom.

But the liberal postwar order it ushered in remains ours to embrace or reject. It is one in which nations with different histories and languages but a common reverence for liberty have joined together to protect each other from forces that would divide them. It is a world that, when living out its ideals, promotes human rights and dignity and which understands that cooperation, communication and interdependence can enhance humanity and diminish the chance of war.

It's a world of military alliances like NATO, international organizations like the United Nations, and trade agreements like NAFTA. It's a world of treaties and multilateral accords.

And it's a world in which the United States, when it abides by its expressed values, respects other nations yet willingly accepts its role as a leader.

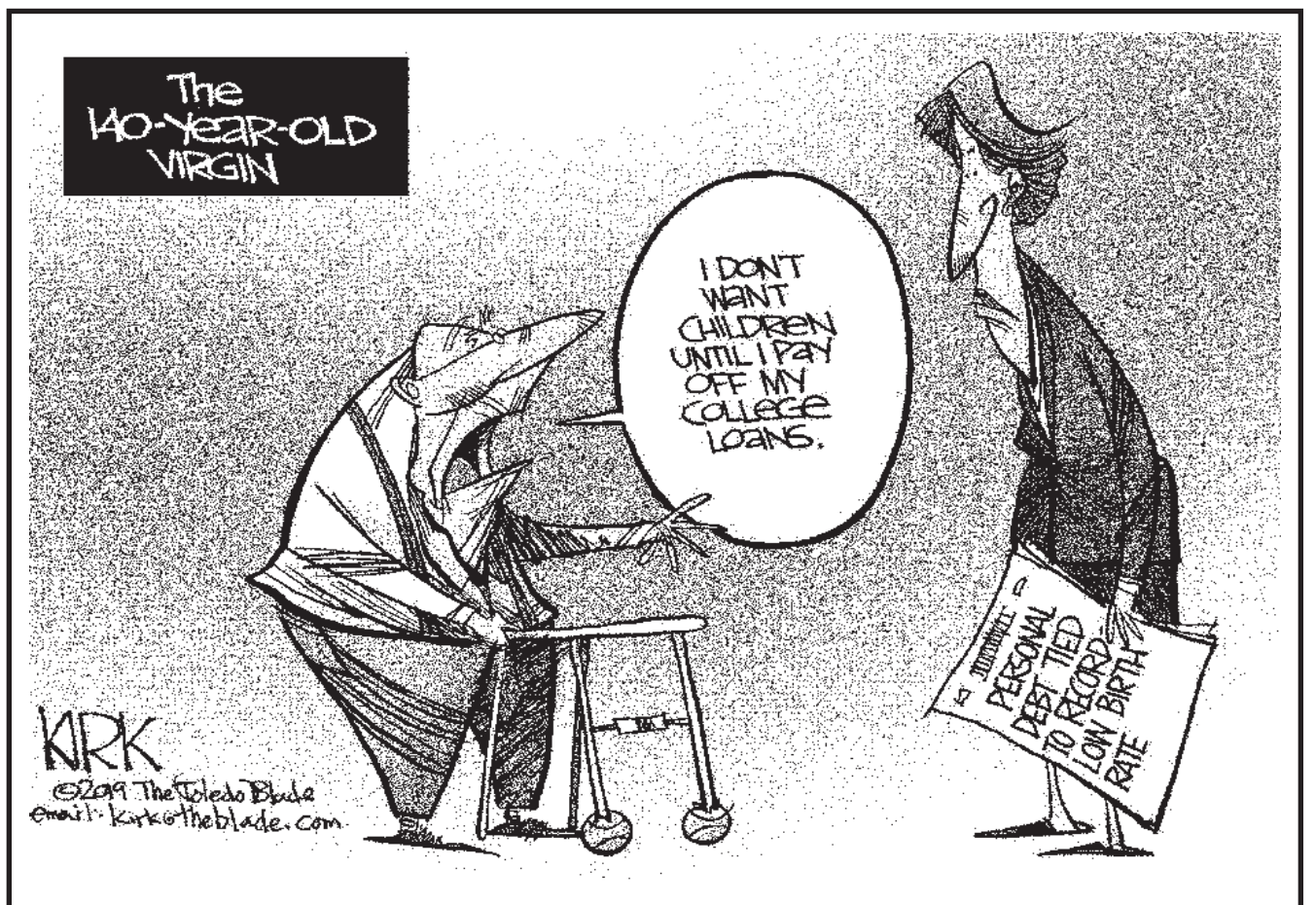
Soldiers from many nations fought at Normandy—from Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand—as did resistance forces from nations still occupied by the Nazis—France, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Greece.

But the invasion was led by the United States, which had the advantages of wealth, industry, population and geographic distance. There is no reason to shrink from the basic fact: The United States rescued freedom.

And in the aftermath, the United States protected it and, through its example, spread its blessings across the globe.

It was an imperfect champion. It obsessed on race

See REMEMBER on Next Page



Regs needed in 'anything goes' CBD environment

Years ago, I was a leukemia patient and bone marrow transplant recipient confronting an extremely difficult decision: Do I continue down an uncontrolled, life-threatening spiral caused by "wasting syndrome" (persistent and potentially fatal weight loss), or do I try an unproven, unregulated, illegal and potentially toxic approach—cannabis?

My oncologist was reluctant to make a recommendation due to the lack of credible information, not to mention safety and legal concerns. But, as a scientist with decades of experience at both research-based and generic pharmaceutical companies, I chose to roll the dice.

I opted to try "medical" cannabis based on anecdotal reports from my hematologist, colleagues and friends, despite my anxiety over inhaling an—at the time—unregulated substance with no evidence-based science to support its use, nor assurances against harmful contaminants. I was fortunate then, and subsequently opted to serve as commissioner on the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, in an effort to ensure no one else would have to take such a gamble in deciding on a treatment.

Both my career and my experience as a patient have given me a unique perspective as to how cannabis and cannabis-derived products, like cannabidiol (CBD), should be regulated. CBD, a cannabis plant extract that doesn't cause intoxication, is now being touted as a potential fix for everything from anxiety to inflammation. It's added to lotions, oils and gummies and even sold as an additive for your coffee.

But regulators are beginning to recognize the dangers inherent in our current "anything goes" environment of unregulated CBD products: The Food and Drug Administration held a day-long hearing on the issue last week.

A 2017 paper in the Journal of the American Medical Association highlighted the lack of quality and consistency in CBD products, which poses risks to consumers. Manufacturing standardization in compliance with good manufacturing practice is one of many critical needs. Experts are calling for the creation of a national standard for CBD, while others focus on label standardization and the need to incorporate into the CBD category rules that currently regulate dietary supplements, foods and cosmetics. I strongly agree with these experts.

Much of the data we rely on today for safety, efficacy, bioavailability and human abuse potential was generated by traditional drug development companies that committed the time and expense required to conduct robust pre-clinical and clinical trials. Society must continue to support such traditional research protocols for medical products.

I would like to suggest a "three-lane highway" approach that would enable the FDA to work within its existing structure to create a regulatory framework for CBD products.

First, the "slow lane": Purified, high-concentration products

By **DEBBY MIRAN**

The Baltimore Sun

Debby Miran is a former member of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission. This was written for the Baltimore Sun.



are defined as drugs and are required to undergo robust clinical trials to demonstrate safety and efficacy in ways that meet the agency's standards.

Next, the "middle lane": Lower-concentration oral dosage forms are regulated as dietary ingredients or foods.

Lastly, the "fast lane": Topical dosage forms are regulated as cosmetics.

While all patients deserve the ability to make informed decisions through conversations with their physicians, the most vulnerable patients with serious illnesses and conditions require assurances that the safety and effectiveness of the medical products they take have been established. This can be achieved through the FDA's stringent regulatory process.

Perhaps the best incentive for the continuance of traditional research was removing from the Controlled Substances Act both hemp and hemp-derivatives, which contains less than 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the intoxicating substance that induces marijuana's psychological effects.

A United States Pharmacopeia (USP) monograph for CBD would ensure accurate product testing for THC concentrations and all of the other issues. Additional incentives can be built into rules and laws as exemplified in the 1984 Hatch-Waxman Act, which created exclusive marketing periods for product innovators.

Finally, another very important incentive could be giving automatic Fast Track status to all cannabis-based investigational products or treat them as if they had "breakthrough therapy" designation, which would expedite their development and review if they show promise and are intended to treat a serious condition, among other criteria.

The FDA has a unique role to play at this moment in history, and I recommend the agency follow words that have inspired me throughout my career and my life: listen, anticipate, guide.

We don't need 50 different sets of state regulations for CBD products. But we do need to protect patients against having to take the risks that I did in terms of safety, efficacy, potency (dosage and concentration), product integrity and the myriad unknowns that exist with today's unregulated CBD products.

Today's patients should not be forced to leave the comfort and relative safety of the existing medical system in order to seek potential relief, as I once was.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Stop bullying at PSS

Bullying is heard about the most in schools as children are the one who are the most susceptible to becoming a bully. But the Board of Education is the biggest bully of them all and they even have real power, which makes it extremely terrible! Just like a bully, the BOE is now threatening teachers to sign an addendum to their contract or get fired! If this is not bullying then we need to include it in the definition because threatening teachers to sign something they don't have to sign by law is pure bullying behavior. But this is not the first time. The BOE and even some principals have used the clause in teachers' contract to "terminate teachers without cause," which is really a tool of retaliation.

Forcing teachers to sign an addendum to their contract that releases PSS from any liability for their pay cuts is wrong and even evil as PSS has a legal duty to live up to teachers' contracts. Threatening teachers is really placing them under undue pressure, which any court will see as a violation

of their rights and expectation under their original contract. BOE can ask teachers to sign the addendum but they can't threaten teachers. I now see why teachers want to protest and they should, with very good reasons, and no teacher should sign the addendum to their contract as they can't fire everyone, so please stick together this time or you will continue to be bullied!

I fought tooth and nail to try and help teachers get bargaining rights so teachers could get the "without cause" erased from their contracts. But the BOE then got some racist teachers from the U.S. mainland and a few locals to actually fight against me, so I know firsthand they don't play fair and it is still going on. When I refused to run for a second term, the BOE even got the CNMI Constitution changed with the help of uneducated voters who really didn't know what they were doing, thinking they were helping PSS when in reality they sealed the fate of our teachers to be an oppressed group

By AMBROSE M BENNETT

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M Bennett is a former teacher representative on the CNMI Board of Education.



of employees forever. Maybe now teachers will join together and get the clause erased in their contracts so they can't be threatened anymore. The BOE made the teacher representative position and teachers a "Captain Dummy" position with no real power. Teachers really need to protest about the addendum and the "without cause" in their contracts because, without that clause, the BOE's bullying days will be over.

Uncertain times for US, allies

Seventy-five years ago, thousands of American and allied sailors, soldiers and aviators braved heavy seas and murderous German fire in the historic invasion that began the decisive campaign to end Nazi control of Europe.

The success of the D-Day landings, Europe's liberation 11 months later and its economic recovery over ensuing decades were a tribute not only to the bravery of the invading troops but to the unprecedented military and political unity that American presidents from Franklin Roosevelt to Barack Obama forged with European allies.

But though President Donald Trump hailed those ties as "unbreakable" as he joined French President Emmanuel Macron to mark Thursday's D-Day anniversary at the Colleville-sur-Mer cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, that unity is fraying, thanks to increasing nationalism within Europe and the tensions Trump has created by questioning the value of the continuing NATO alliance and clashing with long-time U.S. allies over trade.

Even before becoming president, Trump questioned future U.S. adherence to the way the North Atlantic Treaty Organization binds the United States to Europe by committing its signatories to aid one another if attacked. The 28-nation European Union was one of the early targets of Trump's effort to revamp U.S. trade agreements.

In addition, he has interfered to an unprecedented extent in internal European affairs, especially in Great Britain. He encouraged the Brexit movement that unexpectedly won a 2016 referendum calling for its separation from the EU, a vote still having repercussions today as the two parties struggle to adopt the divorce terms.

And on the eve of this week's visit, Trump criticized Prime Minister Theresa May's handling of the Brexit talks in an interview with a prominent British tabloid, the Sun, declaring she "allowed the European Union to have all the cards." May

is stepping down Friday because of her failure to reach a Brexit agreement.

In addition, Trump trashed London mayor Sadiq Khan as "a stone cold loser" and called a member of the royal family, the former Meghan Markle, "nasty" for making critical 2016 comments about him.

But while thousands of protesters mocked Trump in the streets of London, the British sought to return the focus to the purpose of this week's commemorations. At Monday night's Buckingham Palace state dinner for the American president, Queen Elizabeth toasted the two nations' "close and lasting relationship" and gave Trump a copy of Winston Churchill's World War II memoirs. At a news conference Tuesday, May stressed the "special relationship" between the two nations, an emphasis Trump then reciprocated.

But the president could not resist recalling that he predicted the success of the Brexit vote, though he sought to mitigate his earlier criticism by saying May "has done a very good job" in the negotiations. May recalled she rejected his advice to sue the EU, prompting Trump to reply, "I would have sued and settled, maybe." He called May "probably a better negotiator than I am."

More significant than these personal flaps are the Trump policy moves that have convinced many European leaders they can no longer rely on the United States in the event of an emergency, among them his administration's unilateral decisions to withdraw from the intermediate-range missile treaty with Russia and the multi-lateral Iran nuclear agreement.

Last February, European officials listened silently as Vice President Mike Pence urged them at the annual Munich European security conference to join in withdrawing from the Iran agreement. But former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential Democratic successor to Trump, was cheered when he declared, "This too shall pass. We will be back."

For Macron, the breaking point with Trump came when the

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.



American president announced he was pulling U.S. troops out of Syria. The two leaders are also at odds over the Iran agreement and U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Paris climate change pact.

Trump has, when pressured, reiterated U.S. commitment to supporting an attacked NATO ally. But he strained U.S. relations with fellow members of the 70-year-old pact by repeatedly demanding that NATO members increase their defense spending, a point he reiterated in London.

While Trump has suffered increasingly rocky relations with Europe's main U.S. allies — Macron, May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel—he gave warm White House welcomes to their more authoritarian counterparts like Hungary's Viktor Orban, who was shunned by the two previous U.S. presidents.

These displays by Trump, including his continuing initiatives toward North Korea's Kim Jong Un and his reluctance to condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggressive moves in Ukraine, have raised questions in Europe whether there has been a fundamental change in U.S. attitudes or this is unique to this president.

As with many other pending issues, only the 2020 presidential election can answer that. But for now, it's fair to say the U.S.-European relationship today is less solid than it has been through most of the 75 years since those soldiers from 13 nations stormed ashore on the beaches of Normandy.

REMEMBER

From Page 10

and oppressed its nonwhite citizens, especially its African American descendants of slaves. In the name of peace-keeping and anti-communism, it blocked the legitimate aspirations of freedom-seeking people who wanted the same blessings that Americans enjoyed.

But it helped hold the world together. Its leadership, its alliances and its principles (sometimes honored in the breach) created a world in which a growing proportion of people live free of famine, deadly disease, state violence, poverty or fear.

Three-quarters of a century after D-Day, that world seems to be coming apart and the United States, or at least

its president, rejects its responsibilities as a leader. Donald Trump expresses contempt for allies and for alliances. He lauds authoritarians like Vladimir Putin, demagogues like Rodrigo Duterte and dictators like Kim Jong-un. He embodies an America that demands respect but shirks its duties. He represents an America that is eager to forget what it accomplished, together with its allies, on the beaches of Normandy and in the decades since.

As the decades pass and the relationships among world powers shift, it is only natural to review 20th century alliances, to check whether they still hold, and whether they still promote freedom and still hold autocracy at bay. Perhaps that's what Trump intends when he complains that one European nation or another doesn't pay enough to support NATO.

But this is an era in which freedom is being pushed back

in nations that emerged, with U.S. help, from Nazi oppression. Nativist leaders and parties, willing to question or even roll back hard-won freedoms, have won power in Hungary, Poland, Italy and other nations once allied with or occupied by Nazis. Britain is pulling out of the postwar union that finally ended centuries of bloody conflict.

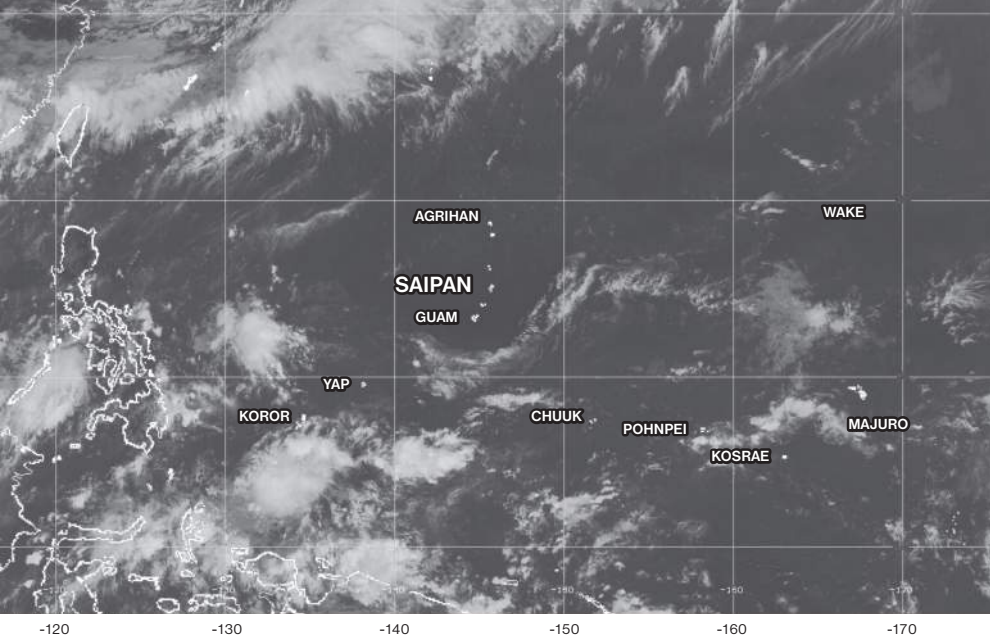
More than 4,000 people died on the beaches of Normandy, and millions more over the course of the war, in the quest to wrest Europe back from the Nazis. The living memory of the individuals who fought and died may fade. But the 75th anniversary of D-Day is a good time to remember the lasting peace, prosperity and freedom that their sacrifice bought us, and that remains ours to keep or toss away.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:27 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry pattern remains locked over the Marianas. Latest model guidance shows this dry pattern continuing through the next week. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms for the islands beginning Tuesday night through Thursday. This is due to a weak surface trough moving through the region, resulting in a slight increase in the instability and mid-level moisture. This could be enough to produce a thunderstorm or two over the islands. However, minimal rainfall is expected with this system, so no relief yet in sight for the dry conditions.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 50°	
Beijing	Showers	86° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 74°	
London	Showers	64° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	85° / 66°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°	
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 46°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 60°	
Osaka	Showers	77° / 64°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 50°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	72° / 61°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	83° / 68°	
San Francisco	Sunny	73° / 55°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80° / 60°	

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TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.00	
9:08 AM	LOW TIDE	0.81	
2:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.44	
8:33 PM	LOW TIDE	0.32	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:55 AM	1:10 PM
Wednesday	-	1:39 AM	2:06 PM
Thursday	-	2:22 AM	3:01 PM
Friday	-	3:06 AM	3:56 PM
Saturday	-	3:51 AM	4:52 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 2, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business



The view as you walk inside Serenity Salon and Spa.
REICA RAMIREZ

Serenity Salon and Spa reopens

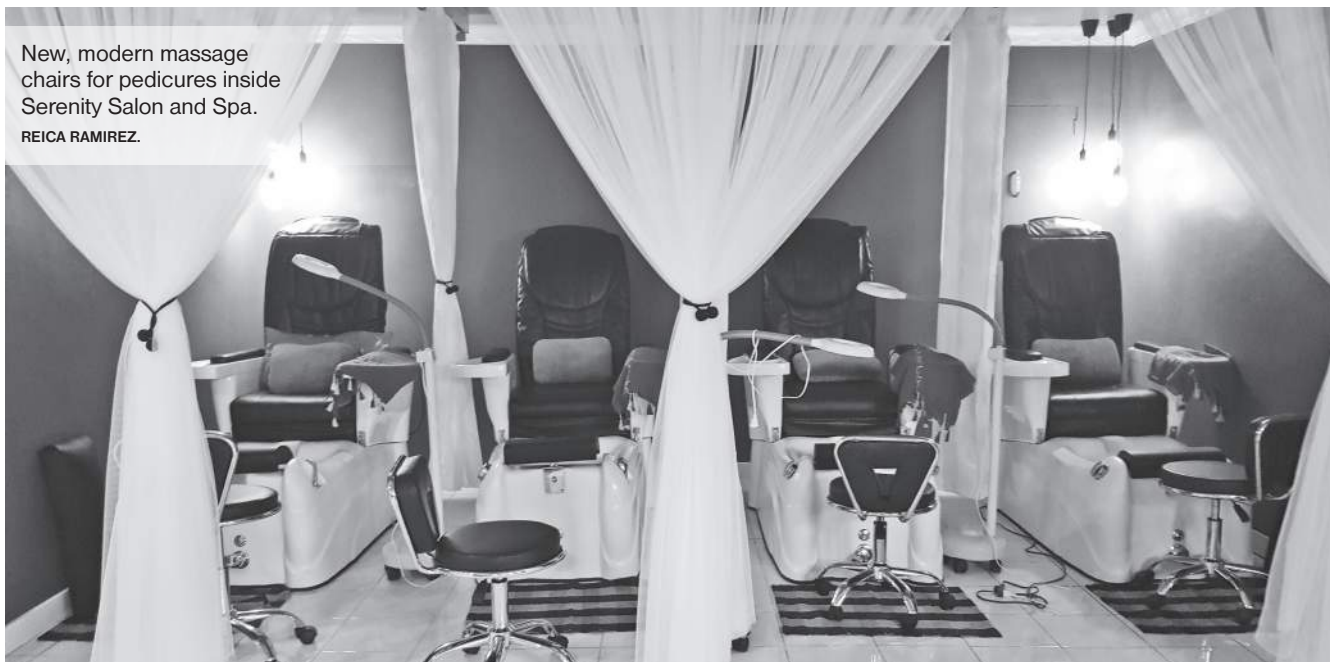
By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After three months of renovation, Serenity Salon and Spa has reopened on the second floor of Dollar Days in Garapan.

During the recovery following Super Typhoon Yutu, the beauty parlor's manager, Nenita Ta, set up a small temporary place next to Dollar Days.

Ta expressed gratitude to her "supportive customers" for their patience throughout the renovation process. The reopening last Sunday was not only a "grand opening but an appreciation to [the] customers." Ta provided giveaways and tokens of appreci-

New, modern massage chairs for pedicures inside Serenity Salon and Spa.
REICA RAMIREZ.



ation to her valued customers.

Ta was also thankful for her staff's hard work and dedication.

Ta's daughter, Mulan, will soon take over her mother's managerial role. Mulan worked at a salon in the U.S. mainland and was inspired to "update and modernize" Serenity Salon and Spa.

Mulan hopes that the customers will feel "comfortable and relaxed" in their new place.

Serenity Salon and Spa first opened on Saipan about 13 years ago.

The salon is open every day from 10am to 7pm. For more information or to set an appointment, call 233-6688.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lawyers say Ghosn surprised by Renault action against him

PARIS (AP)—Lawyers for former Renault chief Carlos Ghosn say they're surprised the French automaker's board has launched legal proceedings against Ghosn. Renault said last week that an internal audit with its partner Nissan found \$12.5 million in questionable personal expenses allegedly linked to Ghosn at their Dutch-based holding company. Renault recommended joint legal action with Nissan in the Netherlands. It also suggested ordering Ghosn to reimburse the company for some expenses. On Sunday, Ghosn's French lawyers said Ghosn hasn't received the audit but has offered to provide explanations for its findings. Ghosn was arrested in November and again in April in Japan over accusations of financial misconduct. He denies the claims.

Raytheon, United Technologies to merge

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—Raytheon Co. and United Technologies Corp. are merging in a deal that creates one of the world's largest defense companies. The merger, announced Sunday, will close in the first half of 2020 after United Technologies completes the previously planned separation of its Otis and Carrier businesses. Raytheon shareholders will receive 2.33 shares in the new company for each Raytheon share. Once the merger is complete, United Technologies shareholders will own approximately 57% of the company; Raytheon shareholders will

own the rest. The combined company, named Raytheon Technologies Corp., will be a powerhouse of defense research and technology, with total sales of approximately \$74 billion this year. That would top giants like Lockheed Martin Corp. and Northrop Grumman Corp. Waltham-based Raytheon was founded in 1922 and makes missiles—including the Patriot system—and cybersecurity tools. Connecticut-based United Technologies was founded in 1934 and makes products for the aerospace and building sectors, including airplane engines and spacesuits.

Kroger recalls frozen berries that might have hepatitis A

NEW YORK (AP)—Grocery stores owned by Kroger across the country are recalling store-label frozen berries because they might be contaminated with hepatitis A. There have been no reported illnesses. The stores include Kroger, Ralphs, Fry's, Fred Meyer and other chains. The recalled fruit are branded "Private Selection" and include "Frozen Triple Berry Medley" in the 16-oz. and 48-oz. sizes and "Frozen Blackberries" in a 16-oz. package. Kroger announced Friday that it has removed the berries from store shelves, and that customers who have them at home should not eat them. Hepatitis A, a contagious liver disease, may cause fatigue, stomach pain and jaundice. It can last a few weeks or several months and can cause liver failure in rare cases. The Food and Drug Administration discovered the contamination.

Strong job market hampers FEMA hiring in flood-hit states

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—The Federal Emergency Management Agency is facing an unexpected challenge in meeting the needs of the many people affected by this spring's widespread flooding and violent storms: a strong economy.

Tasked with responding to natural disasters that seem ever more frequent and destructive, the agency finds itself further challenged by the robust job market and an inability to match what the private sector can offer, in many cases. FEMA officials are turning for help to retirees, recent college graduates and those who lost their jobs to the disasters, though they're finding few available workers in many of the rural communities that are in some of the hardest-hit areas.

In no place is that clearer than Nebraska and Iowa, which were ravaged by floods and have some of the nation's lowest unemployment rates. Iowa's had the third-lowest unemployment rate in April, at 2.4 percent, while Nebraska's was the ninth-lowest, at 2.9 percent.

"The low unemployment rate certainly makes it a little more of an uphill battle, as it is for everyone in the state trying to attract workers," said Herb Doering, a FEMA human resources manager who runs the hiring program in Nebraska.

FEMA has gone to job fairs and sent emails to about 20 local colleges, with a focus on students who might be interested in an emergency management career, Doering said. He said the agency tries to focus on hiring students, retirees, veterans and those who lost their jobs or homes in the natural disasters. The agency also is working with the Nebraska Department of Labor to recruit employees.

"We're trying to get the word out to attract as many applicants as we can, whether it's students, retired folks or veterans," he said. "It's a continuous effort."

FEMA officials are dealing with the same problem nationally, though they say it hasn't hindered their ability to respond to disasters.

"With record low unemployment and rising wages,

it can be difficult to recruit and retain talented workers—particularly in the leadership positions requiring technical, supervisory and programmatic experience—for intermittent positions," said FEMA spokesman Michael Hart.

The agency maintains a large workforce to respond to disasters, but it is constantly looking to hire new employees, Hart said. It has increased its national incident management workforce by 25 percent since Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and has hired more than 1,000 local, temporary workers to help respond to disasters in their communities, he said.

FEMA provides a variety of assistance after disasters, including money for home repairs, temporary housing and home replacement in cases where owners are uninsured. Additionally, the agency helps to rebuild and repair public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, sewer lines and public buildings. Those duties also require workers who can inspect properties, review and keep track of paperwork, and communicate with the public.

Nation

California lawmakers agree to health benefits for immigrants

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California will become the first state to pay for some adults living in the country illegally to have full health benefits as the solidly liberal bastion continues to resist the policies of Republican President Donald Trump's administration.

Democrats in the state Legislature reached an agreement Sunday afternoon as part of a broader plan to spend \$213 billion of state and federal tax money over the next year. The legislature is expected to approve the deal this week. The agreement means low-income adults between the ages of 19 and 25 living in California illegally would be eligible for California's Medicaid program, the joint state and federal health insurance program for the poor and disabled.

Only those in that age group whose incomes are low enough to qualify for the program would get the health benefits. State officials estimate that

group will be about 90,000 people at a cost of \$98 million per year. The state Senate had wanted to expand the proposal to include adults 65 and older, but the Newsom administration argued it would cost too much.

"California believes that health is a fundamental right," said state Sen. Holly Mitchell, a Los Angeles Democrat who led the budget negotiations.

The move is part of a larger effort to make sure everyone in California has health insurance. The proposal also makes California the first state in the country to help middle-income families pay their monthly health insurance premiums. It means a family of four earning as much as six times the federal poverty level—or more than \$150,000 a year—would be eligible to get about \$100 a month from the government to help pay their monthly health insurance premiums.

But to pay for part of it, the state will begin taxing people who don't have health insurance.

Brush fire sets off evacuation at California amusement park

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP)—A fast-moving brush fire erupted near a huge amusement and water park in Southern California on Sunday, sending hundreds of visitors to the exit to escape clouds of smoke and ash before fire officials asked them to stay put while they worked to contain the blaze.

Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor announced the evacuation shortly after noon, citing concern for the safety of park visitors and employees. About a half-hour later, the park said on its Twitter account that fire officials asked guests to shelter in place due to nearby road closures.

Park visitors were asked to move to the back of the 260-acre property, away from firefighting activity near the entrance, said Rachel Gallat, who was visiting a friend who works at the park.

"I was getting iced coffee and when I walked outside, ash was raining down on me," Gallat said. "There was a big cloud of smoke. I saw people around me panicking; they didn't know where they were supposed to go."

A Los Angeles County Fire Department dispatcher told the Los Angeles Times the park voluntarily evacuated visitors.

"We did not tell them to do this," Melanie Flores said.

Los Angeles County fire

officials said nine people were taken to the hospital due to smoke exposure. The blaze is 20% contained.

Shalane Gonzales, 34, said she saw people running out of the park in bathing suits.

"It was pretty scary. We saw trucks packing people," Gonzales said. "They were just telling people to load up on their truck beds."

She said when she tried to drive to the entrance to pick up her partner and their two young sons, police told her to return to the parking lot.

"The fire was feet away from where we were," she said.

The park later announced it was closed for the day after police reopened the roads, allowing everyone to leave in their cars.

Magic Mountain is located about 40 miles north of Los Angeles; its twisting roller coasters are a familiar sight to motorists on Interstate 5.

Firefighters battled the 40-acre blaze in hot, dry and windy conditions during the first day of a heat wave baking the region in nearly 100-degree (37.8-Celsius) heat.

The National Weather Service said temperatures reached 96 degrees (35.6 Celsius) at Magic Mountain, with humidity dipping to 10% and winds gusting to 25 mph (40 kph).

The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Oralia Sandoval, center, holds her son Benjamin, 6, as she participates in an Immigrants Day of Action rally, Monday, May 20, 2019, in Sacramento, Calif.

AP

ance. It's a revival of the individual mandate penalty that had been law nationwide under former President Barack Obama's health care law until Republicans in Congress eliminated it as part of the 2017 overhaul to the tax code.

Republicans on the legislative committee negotiating the budget voted against the proposal, arguing it was not fair to give health benefits to people who are in the country illegally while taxing people who are here legally for not purchasing health insurance.

The budget agreement still must be approved by the full state Legislature. State law requires lawmakers to enact a budget by midnight on June

15. If they don't, lawmakers would lose their pay.

The health care proposals are a win for first-term Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who proposed both of them. Several lawmakers in the Democratic-dominated state legislature wanted to go further by offering health coverage to all adults living in California illegally. But Newsom opposed that, noting it would cost \$3.4 billion.

Newsom did not get everything he wanted in the deal. Advocates say more than 1 million people in California don't have access to safe drinking water. Newsom had proposed a 95-cent tax on most residential water bills as well as fees on dairies, animal farms and

fertilizer sellers, to help water districts pay for improvements and boost supplies. Lawmakers rejected the tax, arguing it was too burdensome in a year when the state is projected to have a \$21.5 billion surplus—the largest in at least 20 years.

Instead, lawmakers decided to use \$130 million in existing tax revenue to pay for the drinking water improvements. Most of that money—about \$100 million—would come from the state's sale of carbon credits as part of its "cap and trade" program. The move means the state's agricultural industry, whose pollution is often blamed for the drinking water problems, would have about \$100 million less than

it normally gets from the program for various projects.

Newsom also wanted to spend an additional \$800 million to boost the annual tax refunds for low-income people who have at least one child under the age of 6. But to pay for it, he wanted to selectively adopt some of the changes to the federal tax code that Trump signed into law in 2017. The changes, which would mostly impact businesses, would have brought the state an extra \$1 billion.

But the legislature did not include the tax changes in its version of the budget proposal. Instead, lawmakers said they hope to reach a tax agreement outside of the budget process by July 1.

1 killed, 5 injured when crane topples on Dallas apartments

DALLAS (AP)—A construction crane buffeted by high winds during a storm toppled on a Dallas apartment building Sunday, killing one woman in the building and injuring five other people, two of them critically, a fire official said.

Crews searching the Elan City Lights building found the body of a woman inside after the crane collapsed and ripped a large gash into the side of the five-story structure, Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans said during a press briefing.

"The building itself has suffered multiple collapses in different areas of the building to include residential spaces and the parking garage," Evans said.

Of those injured, two were listed in critical condition, two suffered serious injuries and one suffered minor injuries and was later discharged from

a hospital, Evans said. Earlier, he had said that six people were injured but said the figure would likely change.

First responders searched every apartment they could reach and found no other victims, Evans said. He also said that every resident of an apartment damaged by the crane was either out at the time or was among those taken to hospitals.

Crews were called to the site of the collapse just before 2 p.m., after the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm watch for the Dallas/Fort Worth area and warned of winds up to 70 mph (113 kph). Evans said the reason the crane fell is unknown but there is a "strong possibility" that the winds "played some role in the collapse."

Across Dallas the storm felled mature trees and knocked out power Sunday,

leaving many areas without working traffic lights.

Isaiah Allen told the Dallas Morning News he was in his apartment when he heard what he thought was a deafening thunderclap. "I saw that the crane had actually fell straight through the building and had destroyed a good eight to 10 apartments and so there's like floors and stuff falling through," he said.

Allen told the paper he saw a bloodied woman trapped in her apartment on the second floor.

Yesenia Bosquez's family had moved into their top-floor apartment just two weeks ago. She returned from a shopping trip to find her apartment, where she'd left her husband, Jay, to recover from a shoulder injury, crushed by the twisted metal.

It took about 30 minutes for authorities to tell her that her husband had been res-

cued alive and had been holding their dog while medics worked on his injuries.

"It felt like a year," Bosquez said.

Video shows that the downed crane ripped a large hole in the east side of the building and landed on an adjacent parking garage.

The company that owned the crane, Bigge Crane and Rigging Co., said in a statement it was mobilizing personnel to the site to find out more about the crane collapse and would cooperate with any investigation.

Evans said "every single level of the parking garage in part has collapsed" and that multiple vehicles were damaged. He said he was not sure if anybody was in the garage at the time of the collapse.

Rescue personnel used dogs to try to find people who might be trapped inside the rubble.

Asia

HK leader signals extradition bill will go forward

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam signaled Monday that her government will go ahead with proposed amendments to its extradition laws after a massive protest against them.

Lam told reporters the legislation is important and will help Hong Kong uphold justice and fulfill its international obligations. Safeguards introduced in May will ensure that the legislation protects human rights, she added.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched through central Hong Kong on Sunday in what appeared to be the territory's largest protest in several years. It underscored fears over China's broadening footprint in the semi-autonomous territory, which was returned to China from British rule in 1997.

The extradition bill amendments would allow Hong Kong to send people to mainland China to face charges, spurring criticism that defendants in the Chinese judicial system won't have the same rights as they would in Hong Kong. Opponents have contended that the proposed

AP
Protesters use barriers against the proposed amendments to the extradition law at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong during the early hours of Monday, June 10, 2019.



ASIAN BRIEFS

6 dead in storms and floods in southeastern China

BEIJING (AP)—Six people have died and one is missing after heavy rains and flooding in southeastern China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday. Xinhua said that 88,000 people have been evacuated in Jiangxi province following strong winds, hail and floods. More than 100 houses have been destroyed. Authorities were distributing cotton quilts, bamboo mats and other relief supplies in the affected areas. Emergency management officials told Xinhua that rains starting this past week had caused flooding in four cities including Nanning and Guilin. Heavy rain is forecast to continue until June 12.

Taliban attack kills 14 militiamen in western Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says the Taliban have killed at least 14 members of a pro-government militia in an attack on checkpoints in the western Ghor province. Abdul Hai Khateby, the spokesman for the provincial governor, says seven other militiamen were wounded in the attack late Friday, with two of them in critical condition. Khateby says reinforcements pushed the Taliban back and inflicted casualties, without giving exact

figures. The Taliban, who effectively control about half of the country, carry out daily attacks on Afghan security forces and government targets. The U.S. has held several rounds of talks with the insurgents in recent months aimed at ending the nearly 18-year war.

Rights group cheers Bhutan's move toward legalizing gay sex

NEW DELHI (AP)—A global rights group on Sunday welcomed Bhutan's move toward becoming the latest South Asian nation to decriminalize homosexuality. The tiny Himalayan kingdom's lower house of Parliament voted overwhelmingly on Friday to repeal provisions that said "unnatural sex" is illegal. The bill still needs to be passed by the upper chamber before being sent for royal assent. "Taking steps to end the criminalization of same sex relationships is a welcome and progressive step by Bhutan," Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at New York-based Human Rights Watch, said in an email. Bhutanese Finance Minister Namgay Tshering had proposed to repeal the penal code provisions, saying the law, despite never being used, had become "a stain" on the country's reputation. The minister said he was optimistic that the upper house in the nation of

750,000 people would back the lower house decision when it votes on Monday.

Japan plans carbon emission cuts, more nuclear energy

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is calling for further efforts to cut its carbon emissions by promoting renewable energy while also pushing nuclear power despite its 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant disaster. An energy policy paper, adopted by the Cabinet on Friday, said Japan faces the urgent task of reducing carbon emissions by utilities that rely heavily on fossil fuel plants to make up for shortages of cleaner nuclear energy. The call comes as nuclear reactors around Japan are slowly being restarted—despite lingering anti-nuclear sentiment since the Fukushima crisis—after being shut down to meet tougher safety standards. Japan wants renewable energy's share in 2030 to grow to 22-24% of the country's power supply from 16%, while pushing nuclear energy to 20-22% from just 3% in 2017. The report said the cost of renewables also needs to be reduced. Japanese utilities rely more heavily on fossil fuel plants than those in the U.S. and Europe, the paper said. Coal and natural gas accounted for 74% of Japan's energy supply.

legislation would make Hong Kong residents vulnerable to vague national security charges and unfair trials.

Lam said Sunday's protest demonstrates Hong Kong's

enduring commitment to its people's freedoms. She denied that she is taking orders from China's Communist Party-ruled central government.

"I have not received any

instruction or mandate from Beijing to do this bill," she said. "We were doing it—and we are still doing it—out of our clear conscience, and our commitment to Hong Kong."

Near-erasure of Cambodian opposition makes noodles a target

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The bitter rivalry between Cambodian strongman Hun Sen and his self-exiled chief political rival Sam Rainsy has sometimes played out in deadly violence. But on Sunday, soup rather than blood was likely to be spilled.

The two titans of Cambodian politics normally agree over nothing but made stunningly similar calls to their followers this past week. They both said all Cambodians should gather with their neighbors on Sunday and sit for a meal of num banh chok, a popular Cambodian rice noodle soup usually eaten at breakfast.

From his prime minister's perch of unchallenged authority, Hun Sen promoted eating "the Khmer (Cambodian) noodles of unity and solidarity." Sam Rainsy, co-founder of the country's only credible but now disbanded political party, called for "eating Khmer noodles for the sake of friendship in the framework of the entire, giant Cambodian family."

Both encouraged sharing the meal with folks from the other side of the political fence.

It sounds utopian, but its roots are in hard-nosed politics.

The Cambodia National Rescue Party was dissolved by the Supreme Court in 2017 in what was widely seen as a maneuver to ensure victory by Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party in the 2018 general election. The 118 opposition lawmakers were kicked out of Parliament and banned from any political activity for five years.

Former party members were left at loose ends. Many of its leaders fled the country, fearing arrest. Even those in local political positions were booted from their jobs.

Sin Rozeth had been an admired young CNRP commune chief in the northwestern province of Battambang. Forced out of politics, she opened a shop selling Cambodian noodles. Her old colleagues would drop by for a meal and chat about politics, and she and others would post their thoughts on Facebook.

Their comments about Sam Rainsy drew the attention of authorities. A court called in Sin Rozeth and about three dozen colleagues for questioning, citing their noodle soup meals as political gatherings in violation of the Supreme Court ban on political activity. Matters escalated.

According to Human Rights Watch, authorities this year have issued at least 147 arbitrary court and police summonses against members or supporters of the Cambodia National Rescue Party. "Summons seen by Human Rights Watch lacked legal specifics, containing only vague references to allegations that the person summoned may have violated the Supreme Court ruling that dissolved the CNRP in November 2017," the rights group said.

Soon, word spread that the former CNRP leaders wanted their party members to gather where they could on Sunday and eat the kind of noodles Sin Rozeth sold in her shop—a novel act of political solidarity.

Hun Sen, known for his prowess in chess, quickly countered, sending word down to his party members that they should also gather on Sunday to eat noodle soup: "Please don't forget to eat Khmer noodles together. These are the Khmer noodles of unity and solidarity, not destructive noodles." Hun Sen also suggested that the activity could kick off a campaign to promote Cambodian food and culture.

World

General strike launched in Sudan after security crackdown

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Shops were closed and streets were empty across Sudan on Sunday, the first day of a general strike called for the start of the workweek by protest leaders demanding the resignation of the ruling military council.

The Sudanese Professionals Association urged people to stay home to protest the deadly crackdown last week when security forces violently dispersed the group's main sit-in outside the military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum.

The protesters say more than 100 people have been killed since the crackdown began June 3, including at least four slain by security forces on Sunday.

The protesters hope that their strike and campaign of civil disobedience will force the military to hand over power to civilians. The military leaders ousted longtime President Omar al-Bashir in April after four months of rallies. The generals have refused demonstrators' demands for an immediate move to civilian rule, instead pushing for a transitional power-sharing arrangement.

The SPA posted photos of what it said was an empty Khartoum International Airport, adding that airport workers and pilots are taking part in the civil disobedience.



In this frame grab from video shops are closed during a general strike, in the Al-Arabi souk business district of Khartoum, Sudan, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Other videos online showed offices and businesses closed and light traffic, in both Khartoum and the Red Sea city of Port Sudan.

SPA activist Dura Gambo said participation in the general strike "exceeded our expectations."

"All private and some gov-

ernment banks joined the strike. Cities across the country are almost empty," she said.

The head of the leading opposition Umma party, Sadek al-Mahdi, warned of escalation from both the protest leaders and the military council.

"The mutual escalation damages the county. We have

been working to adjust the strike and disobedience to contain the escalation," he said in televised comments.

Military council spokesman Shams al-Deen al-Kabashi urged the protest leaders to retract their call for civil disobedience.

In televised comments, al-Kabashi said the council would accept proposals provided by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to resume talks. Ahmed has been trying to revive negotiations between the generals and the protest leaders.

"We have no objections to get back to negotiations and reach consensus," al-Kabashi

said, adding that it would study the conditions provided by the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, an umbrella group of opposition figures and protest leaders.

An Associated Press journalist saw a heavy deployment of troops from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in several parts of Khartoum and its sister city of Omdurman. There are long lines for fuel in several areas in the capital.

The internet remains cut off in Khartoum, and other types of communications also are restricted, with reports of mobile network services heavily disrupted.

Security forces removed

barricades from main roads and opened the sit-in area outside the military's headquarters for the first time in a week. The SPA urged protesters to avoid clashes with the RSF.

The RSF grew out of the notorious Janjaweed militias used by al-Bashir in the Darfur conflict in the early 2000s. Protesters accuse it of leading the nationwide crackdown, and the SPA has called for the force to be disbanded.

The Sudan Doctors' Committee, the medical affiliate of the SPA, said that of the four people killed Sunday, one was a young man who was shot by the RSF in Khartoum's Bahri neighborhood. Two others died of their wounds after RSF forces beat them, and a fourth was shot in Omdurman, it said.

The committee says 118 people have been killed since June 3. The military-run Health Ministry has offered a lower death toll of 61, including 49 civilians and three security forces in Khartoum.

The World Health Organization said Saturday that 784 people were wounded in Khartoum since June 3, although it added that the actual number could be higher because not all cases are reported or recorded.

The opposition Sudanese Congress Party posted video of what it said was a funeral in Bahri.

The SPA said peaceful, civil disobedience and a general strike "is the fastest and most effective way to topple the military council ... and to hand over power to a transitional civilian authority." It urged international agencies to refrain from dealing with the military council.

Central American migrants say deal doesn't dash asylum hopes

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—At the small migrant Juventud 2000 shelter near the border, a Honduran expressed disappointment Sunday over the agreement between Mexico and the United States to more aggressively to curtail migration from Central America.

But Edwin Sabillon Orellana of Honduras said he and his family will stick with their effort to seek asylum in the U.S.

Sabillon said some migrants might decide that waiting in Mexico for the lengthy processing of asylum requests isn't worth it, but he said he cannot take his family back to their home near San Pedro Sula, a crime-ridden metropolis that is Honduras' second biggest city.

"In my dreams I never had it in my mind to one day come to the United States," the 30-year old assembly plant worker said, sitting near a large pot of half-made salsa ranchera awaiting a delivery of cooking gas to the shelter's kitchen. "I had my job, my wife had her job. My daughter was in a bilingual school—my daughter speaks English. I didn't have a reason to come here."

That all changed in April

when one of the street gangs plaguing Honduras and other Central American countries gave him a deadline of five days to begin paying a monthly extortion fee of about \$120, Sabillon said. He said the gangsters thought he could pay because his daughter went to a good school, but she was on scholarship. The family earned enough only to keep food on the table and pay the utilities, he said.

Two days before the deadline, Sabillon slipped away in the middle of the night with his wife and 8-year-old daughter and left Honduras. It took them about two weeks to reach Tijuana, across the border from San Diego. They quickly crossed into the U.S. illegally near Tijuana's beach and asked for asylum. After five days in detention they were sent back to Tijuana at night with an appointment to return later this month.

The mechanism that allows the U.S. to send migrants seeking asylum back to Mexico to await resolution of their cases has been running in Tijuana since January. One part of Friday's agreement between Mexico and the U.S. to head

off the threat of U.S. tariffs on all imports from Mexico was an expansion of that program along the entire border.

As of last week, about 10,000 asylum seekers had been returned to Mexico, according to Mexican officials. So far the program has been operating only in California and in El Paso, Texas. It is currently being challenged in U.S. courts.

Mexico has offered opportunities for Central American migrants like Sabillon to legalize their status so they can work while waiting or if they decide to stay in Mexico. But he is not interested.

Most Mexicans are good people, he said, but some curse migrants in the street. On Saturday, he took his family to hear Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador speak at a rally in downtown Tijuana. He wasn't able to hear the president's words about respecting migrants' human rights because the crowd around him got worked up after a woman shouted, "Mexicans first and those from the caravan can go to ...," he said, not repeating the profanity.

Official: Canada to announce ban on single-use plastics

TORONTO (AP)—The Canadian government plans to announce it is moving to ban single-use plastics as early as 2021, a senior government official said late Sunday.

The official said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau would make the announcement Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly ahead of Monday's news conference.

The official said specific items to be banned will be determined based on a science-based review, but they are considering items such as water bottles, plastic bags and straws.

The official said Trudeau's government is looking at what the European Union did and drawing inspiration from their model.

The European Union parliament overwhelmingly voted in March to impose a wide-ranging ban on single-use plastics to counter pollution from discarded items that end up in waterways and fields. EU member states have given their support but need to vote on the measure for it to go into effect.

The EU's measure would affect a range of plastic products for which reasonable alternatives exist, from straws to earbuds, starting in 2021.

Disposable utensils would not be completely off-limits, but the EU measure calls for them to be made of sustainable materials when possible. The approved EU legislation also sets a goal of having plastic bottles 90 percent recycled by 2025 and to cut litter from the 10 items

that turn up in oceans most often in half.

The EU estimated the changes will cost the bloc's economy 259 million euros to 695 million euros a year (\$291 million to \$781 million).

The European Parliament has said that plastics production is 20 times higher now than during the 1960s. China's decision to no longer import some of the EU's waste helped spur the plastics ban.

China banned the import of plastic waste last year, causing other Southeast Asian nations to become new destinations. The Philippines, one of two Southeast Asian countries that protested being treated like dumpsites by wealthier nations, shipped 69 containers of what its officials called illegally transported garbage back to Canada in May.

Focus

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OGDEN, Utah (AP)—When doctors said her youngest child would be a girl, Amie Schofield chose the name Victoria. Then they said the child would be a boy, so she switched to Victor.

It turned out neither was exactly right. The blue-eyed baby was intersex, with both male and female traits.

And so she and her husband decided to call the infant Victory. The name is a hope for triumph over the secrecy and shame, the pain and discrimination suffered by intersex people.

Amie Schofield knows those sufferings better than most: This was not her first intersex child.

Some two decades earlier, she gave birth to another child whose body did not align with common expectations of boys or girls. Schofield agreed to have that child undergo surgery that tipped the scales of gender to masculine. But the operation did not settle the issue of gender in the child's mind, or protect them from a savage beating decades later.

Now, with Victory, Schofield has been given an opportunity to try again. Her parents want Victory to be accepted for who she is; instead of changing Victory, they are intent on changing the world so it is more accepting of intersex people.

"What I hope is what every parent hopes for their kid," Schofield said. "We don't want her to look at herself and think there's something wrong just because she's different."

Amie first married when she was young, and had her first child more than 20 years ago. Instead of having one X chromosome and one Y chromosome, as men have, or two X chromosomes, as is typically female, the child had two X's and a Y.

Intersex people are not to be confused with transgender. Intersex is an umbrella term for a number of conditions where internal or external sex characteristics aren't exactly like typical male or female bodies. They are a larger group than is commonly acknowledged; estimates range from about 3 in every 200 births to 1 in 2,000.

"I'm convinced every single person on this planet has met someone who's intersex," said Georgiann Davis, a sociologist at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas who is intersex and is the board president of interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth.

Some intersex conditions are known to run in families, though that's rare for XXY chromosomes, said Dr. Adrian Dobs, director of the Klinefelter Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Not everyone with the disorder is considered intersex.

Doctors have long performed surgery and administered hormones to intersex kids to make their bodies more like typical boys or girls, but there's a growing pushback. Five states have considered banning surgery until they're old enough to consent, citing serious potential side effects, but most bills have stalled amid

pushback from doctors' groups who say the proposals go too far.

Amie took doctors' advice and raised her first baby as a boy, agreeing to surgery to bring down undescended testicles.

But the onset of puberty brought hips and breasts, something that didn't go unnoticed by other teenagers in the small Idaho town where mother and child lived at the time.

"It's not something I really thought about until they started making fun of me," said Amie's eldest, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fear of violence.

The teenager developed a kind of armor: binders and sports bras, then layers of shirts for bulk, followed by a jacket that never came off, all in a goth style to create a distraction. There were beatings, and the teen developed a strategy: Keep a straight face. Don't scream. Don't say anything. The startled bully might just back off.

Amie Schofield allowed her child to experiment with nail polish and dresses at home, but in the years after the fatal beating of gay man Matthew Shepard in nearby Wyoming, she was terrified to go public. She aches when she thinks about those years.

"I wish that we could have been

open," she said. "I wish I had understood more so that maybe I could have made it easier."

The move to Utah put the teenager in touch with other LGBTQ people, and for the first time exploring femininity publicly seemed possible. Instead of a beating, wearing a dress might earn supportive shouts like "keep doing you!"

That all changed one night in 2014. As they (the pronoun preferred by this person) walked to a Salt Lake City bar wearing a favorite tie-dye dress, a man shouted, "Where you going mama? You're looking pretty good in that dress!"

Never having been hit on before, they turned to say thank you. But the man's face changed when he heard a deep voice that didn't match that female body. He blew up, spewing gay slurs, and charged, weighted pipe in hand.

He landed a number of powerful blows. Blood sprayed everywhere before he fled, leaving the young person for dead.

A large gash to the head was treated with staples at a hospital. Police investigated, but couldn't catch the assailant, according to officials.

Amie was in the hospital after giving birth to Victory when she heard

about the attack on her eldest child. She felt angry, helpless—and determined to protect her baby. She didn't want her youngest child to live with the secrecy and fear that colored her first child's teenage years.

"I don't want her to live that kind of life," she said.

Like her half-sibling, Victory has XXY chromosomes. She also has a separate condition that means her body doesn't fully respond to male hormones. Her genitalia are ambiguous, but due to the Y chromosome doctors marked the birth certificate as male, and encouraged Victory's parents to raise the baby as a boy.

Amie and her husband took newborn Victory home. The family lives north of Salt Lake City on a plot of land ringed by mountains where they raise chickens, goats and pigs along with Victory and her two brothers.

They decided to raise the baby without pushing either gender. There would be no surgery. At 18 months, Victory began gravitating toward dresses and bows, and loudly insisting on wearing her hair long. Their then-pediatrician Nisha Baur said Victory's parents took things as they came during her earliest years. "They were very open to just accepting whatever was going to happen,"

In this Thursday, June 6, 2019, photo, Victory hugs her mother Amie Schofield at their home, in Ogden, Utah. Victory has XXY chromosomes. Amie and her husband decided to raise Victory without pushing either gender. There would be no surgery. At 18 months, Victory began gravitating toward dresses and bows, and loudly insisting on wearing her hair long.

she said.

Today, Victory is a vivacious 5-year-old with a toothy grin, blond hair and a quick mind. She's mostly deaf due to a separate genetic condition, but communicates clearly with signs, some words and sheer force of personality. She runs around the house at top speed, cradling a reluctant kitten, perching next to her great-grandmother to read a book or running for the bus in a sparkling silver backpack with butterfly wings.

Victory knows her body is different from those of her mother, father or brothers, but it doesn't seem to bother her, Amie Schofield said.

Her eldest child lives outside the state. They recovered physically from the attack, but for months afterward there was a constant sense of deep fear. They retreated into masculine clothing, affecting as deep a voice as possible, attempting to grow out what little facial hair they have.

Knowing Victory was born intersex brought a sense of comradeship but also fear for her. "I'm scared of how society will treat her," they said.

Victory's parents share that apprehension. There are so many hazards ahead.

Victory's father, Michael Schofield, formally left the Utah-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints shortly after she was born. The faith doesn't have an official position on intersex people, but is doctrinally opposed to same-sex marriage and intimacy.

"Will she marry a boy or a girl? Which one is right? Which one is wrong?" said Schofield, a federal worker. "I don't want to do that ... she's free to make her own choices."

Her parents would like to change the designation on her birth certificate from boy to girl, but Utah law requires a court order and some judges in their area won't approve the changes. Amie Schofield and Victory have gone to the capitol to speak out in favor of changing the law, so far unsuccessfully.

The deaf school she attends has single-user, non-gendered restrooms, but what happens if she changes schools? What will dating be like one day? Will she have trouble as she applies for jobs, or apartments, or schools? Could she also be targeted by violence? How will she feel about not being able to have children?

Her mother can only hope to teach her to handle these dilemmas herself. "It's not something I can save her from," Amie Schofield said.

But whatever comes, the family isn't going to hide.

"I hate the secrecy," she said. "She's just so smart, so full of life. She's just a normal girl."



Lovingly, a family raises an intersex child—again

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross eclipsed by superior competitors

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you remember big hair, Duran Duran and Members Only jackets, odds are you remember Japanese sports coupes. With eye-catching styling, decent athleticism, sprightly performance, good fuel economy, and front-wheel drive, the Celica, Prelude, Pulsar, and Impulse supplanted such hallowed Detroit names as Monte Carlo, Grand Prix, Thunderbird, and Cougar in young car buyers' hearts.

And one the longest lasting names was the Mitsubishi Eclipse, sold stateside from 1989 through 2011, and always fairly popular, something that couldn't be said of most Mitsubishi's. The company, best known for its room air conditioners, has struggled for visibility in the U.S. market for decades. If you need to get a sense of the company's desperation

in being of any consequence, consider the name of its newest compact crossover SUV: the Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross.

But don't let the Eclipse name fool you; this five-door crossover is far from sporty, desirable or even good looking. While you might find its samurai sword chrome grille accents oddly appealing, its weirdly creased rear hatch impedes rear visibility and reminds many observers of the late, unlamented Pontiac Aztek. In an effort to stand apart, it tries too hard — like Simon LeBon trying to look or sound vaguely youthful.

Hey, at least the Eclipse Cross is easy to find in a parking lot.

But maybe you like the looks, and you're impressed that its price starts at a reasonable \$23,595 and comes with a five-year/60,000-mile basic warranty, a 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty,

and standard all-wheel drive on all trim levels except for that inexpensive base model.

But don't let the bargain price fool you. The disenchantment starts the minute you climb inside. You'd be hard-pressed to find a worse new car odor than the stomach-churning aroma that greets you in a new Mitsubishi. Consider it a pungent caveat of what's to come, and it starts with its technology.

For a company that manufactures a vehicle meant to attract younger buyers, it's astounding that the Eclipse Cross has one of the worst infotainment systems offered in a new car. Unintuitive, slow and poorly designed, its interface is operated via touchscreen and/or a touchpad on the center console. There are no knobs or shortcut buttons. There's no navigation system. And it infuriating fails

to automatically connect with your smart phone every time you start the car. You can mitigate this somewhat by opting for the more expensive SE or SEL trims, since they offer Apple CarPlay and Android Auto Connectivity. And while there are USB ports, wireless charging is not offered.

More importantly, you won't find the Eclipse Cross particularly satisfying to drive. It's not awful, just remarkably unremarkably inept.

Power comes courtesy of a turbocharged 1.5-liter four-cylinder mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission that's tuned more for fuel economy than performance. Even so, this driveline proved inadequate for both. Power and acceleration are adequate around town, but severely lacking

for highway merging or at higher speeds. What power is available is strangled by a parsimonious transmission that hesitates before offering up more juice.

The mediocre power only exacerbates this vehicle's lousy suspension tuning. Neither comfortable nor sporty, the Eclipse Cross easily loses its composure, with cornering that brings out more lean than your local congressman. Leaning dramatically in corners, it easily loses grip over bumps, which retards performance as the driveline nannies kick in. Engine noise is minimal, although road noise is excessive crossing anything except pristine blacktop.

Your safety shouldn't come at a price — but it does with the Eclipse Cross. For example, blind spot monitoring and rear cross traffic alert are available only on the top two trim levels while the most advanced safety features — automatic emergency braking, forward collision mitiga-

tion, lane departure warning, and adaptive cruise control — are only available in the \$2,500 Touring Package on the \$30,695 model. Even if you were to consider popping more than 30 big ones, why would you spend so much money on this rig?

Given its many competitors, all of whom outclass it, there's little to recommend the 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross, ensuring the company's continued anonymity in the American market.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: \$23,595-\$30,695
- Engine: Turbocharged 1.5-liter four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 152
- Torque: 184 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 25/26
- Wheelbase: 105.1 inches
- Length: 173.4 inches
- Cargo capacity: 22.6-48.9 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 1,500 pounds
- Curb weight: 3,483 pounds

TNS
The 2019 Eclipse Cross is far from sporty, desirable or even good looking, says auto reviewer Larry Printz.



UNDER THE HOOD: High performance engines require premium grade fuel

Q: I have a 2015 Infiniti Q70. I use premium gas. Do I have to? Is it recommended or is it a marketing trick to pay more? I have always driven Infinitis and have paid for premium. Is it worth it?

They say an Infiniti will run forever if you change the oil regularly. I don't need synthetic oil. Just regular oil is fine. Correct? But what's the interval? I usually go to Jiffy Lube every 3,000 miles. Good practice?

— Joe in Chicago

A: Your Infiniti Q70 requires premium grade fuel. Checking the filler neck/gas door for a label can confirm this. Many ve-

hicles with high performance engines require premium grade fuel because of its higher octane, which mitigates detonation, a violent form of abnormal combustion. Significant pressure, heat and stress occur when fuel explodes rather than burns in a controlled fashion.

Some car makers merely recommend premium fuel. In this case the engine's requirements are not as high, and the management system is capable of tuning ignition timing and other functions to tolerate lesser grade fuel. If driven under high temperatures or stressful conditions, such as climbing over a mountain pass during the heat of summer, I

would absolutely go with the higher grade recommended fuel. If a vehicle doesn't specify premium fuel is needed, and there are no issues with pre-ignition or detonation, using it is a waste of money.

Regarding your oil change question, the Infiniti engine on your Q70 employs special friction reducing coatings on certain parts and a highly sophisticated valve train that benefit from using top-notch oil.

Nissan recommends their branded (\$13-ish per quart) engine oil that contains an ester additive and some other high-tech friction reducing tricks. There is considerable debate on whether a good synthetic

oil might do just as well at less cost. Infiniti recommends changing oil on your Q70 every six months or 5,000 miles.

What really matters is your driving habits. Extreme cold weather operation, short run times, lots of idling in traffic at higher temperatures, demanding high temperature conditions/towing, and driving in dusty conditions bring down the recommended oil change interval possibly as low as 3,000 miles. Easier conditions and long run times could make a 8,000- to 10,000-mile oil change reasonable. I'm thinking: buy a five quart jug of Mobil 1 extended performance synthetic oil for \$30 or

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



\$35 and bring it to your shop every 5,000 to 6,000 miles.

Julie and I just arrived in Alaska after enjoying a trouble-free and fulfilling drive up from California, our 17th time exploring the highway. Extensive preparation of the truck and trailer, route planning, and care in avoiding road issues can make this a spectacular road trip! Unlike the old days, the Alaska Highway is 98% smooth paved roadway, with occasional

gravel/construction sections, which are reasonably smooth but dusty. The final 100 miles of Yukon and first 100 miles of Alaska roadway are the only rough spots. Frost heaving of the road surface and damaged pavement require slow speed and alert driving. We enjoy finding new "itinerant camping" spots each time, such as along lakes, rivers or smack in front of a glacier. I'll be sure to add some new photos of spectacular sights to the website.

Life & Style

25 years after murders, OJ says 'Life is fine'

By **LINDA DEUTSCH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After 25 years living under the shadow of one of the nation's most notorious murder cases, O.J. Simpson says his life has entered a phase he calls the "no negative zone."

In a telephone interview, Simpson told The Associated Press he is healthy and happy living in Las Vegas. And neither he nor his children want to look back by talking about June 12, 1994—when his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, were killed and Simpson quickly was transformed in the public mind from revered Pro Football Hall of Fame hero to murder suspect.

"We don't need to go back and relive the worst day of our lives," Simpson said. "The subject of the moment is the subject I will never revisit again. My family and I have moved on to what we call the



In this July 20, 2017, file photo, former NFL football star O.J. Simpson reacts after learning he was granted parole at Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nev. AP

"no negative zone." We focus on the positives."

For a man who once lived for the spotlight, Simpson has been keeping a largely low profile since his release from prison in October 2017 after

serving nine years for a robbery-kidnapping conviction in Las Vegas. He continues to believe his conviction and sentence for trying to steal back his own memorabilia were unfair but says, "I believe in the

legal system and I honored it. I served my time."

After his release from the prison in Lovelock, Nevada, many expected him to return to Florida where he had lived for several years. But friends

in Las Vegas persuaded him to stay there despite the case that landed him in prison.

He's glad he did. "The town has been good to me," Simpson said. "Everybody I meet seems to be apologizing for what happened to me here."

His time in the city hasn't been without controversy, however. A month after his release an outing to a steakhouse and lounge at the Cosmopolitan resort off the Las Vegas Strip ended in a dispute. Simpson was ordered off the property and prohibited from returning.

No such problems have occurred since, and Simpson is among the most sought-after figures in town for selfies with those who encounter him at restaurants or athletic events he attends occasionally.

He plays golf almost every day and said he is a member of a club of "retired guys" who compete with each other on the golf course. The knees

that helped him run to football glory at the University of Southern California and with the NFL's Buffalo Bills have been replaced and he recently had Lasik surgery on his eyes. But nearing his 72nd birthday, he is otherwise healthy.

Simpson said he remains close to his children and other relatives. His parole officer has given him permission to take short trips including to Florida where his two younger children, Justin and Sydney, have built careers in real estate.

His older daughter, Arnelle, lives with him much of the time but also commutes to Los Angeles.

"I've been to Florida two or three times to see the kids and my old buddies in Miami. I even managed to play a game of golf with them," he said. "But I live in a town I've learned to love. Life is fine."

He also visited relatives in Louisiana, he said, and spoke to a group of black judges and prosecutors in New Orleans.

By **JOHN ROGERS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

will never discuss the murders again.

Where are they now?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The June 12, 1994, killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman brought the "Trial of the Century" that saw O.J. Simpson acquitted of the murders. From Johnnie to Kato to Ito, the trial brought together a fascinating cast of characters. Here's a look at where they are now.

THE DEFENDANT

Two years after Simpson's 1995 acquittal, a civil court jury found him liable for the deaths of his ex-wife and Goldman, and ordered he pay their survivors \$33.5 million. He got into a series of minor legal scrapes ranging from a 2001 Florida road-rage incident (he was acquitted) to racing his boat through a protected Florida manatee zone in 2002 (he was fined). His most serious transgression came in 2007, however, when he and five others barged into a Las Vegas hotel room with guns and robbed memorabilia dealers of property that Simpson said was his. He served nine years in a Nevada prison and was paroled in 2017. Now 71, Simpson lives quietly in Las Vegas where he says he plays golf nearly every day with a group of "retired guys." He also poses for selfies with the many people still enamored with his celebrity. Simpson told The Associated Press in a recent interview that he

THE VICTIMS' SURVIVORS

Ron Goldman's sister, Kim, was 22 and broke into hysterical sobs when the not guilty verdict was read. These days she counsels troubled teens as executive director of a Southern California-based nonprofit, The Youth Project, and is a speaker to victims' rights group. She has authored several books and on Wednesday—the 25th anniversary of her sister's death—begins a 10-episode podcast titled "Confronting: OJ Simpson," in which she says she'll discuss all aspects of the trial. Goldman, now 47, lives in a Southern California suburb with her 15-year-old son.

Fred Goldman, Ron's father, has relentlessly pursued Simpson through civil courts, maintaining it is the only way to achieve justice for his son. Goldman's family has seized some of Simpson's memorabilia, including his 1968 Heisman Trophy as college football's best player that year. The family has also taken the rights to Simpson's movies, a book he wrote about the killings and other items to satisfy part of the \$33.5 million judgment that Simpson refuses to pay. Goldman, 78, lives with his wife, Patti, in Arizona, where both are Realtors.

Denise Brown, Nicole

Brown Simpson's sister, has remained the family's most outspoken critic of Simpson, although like the Goldman family she refuses to speak his name. The former model has become a victims' rights advocate and a speaker, urging both women and men to leave abusive relationships. She said she has gotten over her anger with God for the killings but has never forgiven Simpson and will not watch any films or documentaries about the killings.

THE LEGAL DREAM TEAM

Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., Simpson's flamboyant lead attorney, died of brain cancer in 2005 at 68. His refrain to jurors that "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit" sought to underscore that the bloody gloves found at Simpson's home and the crime scene were too small for the football legend when he tried them on in court. After the trial, that line became a national catchphrase. Following the trial Cochran expanded his law firm to 15 states and frequently appeared on television. He also became the inspiration for bombastic lawyer Jackie Chiles on the TV sitcom "Seinfeld."

Robert Kardashian died of esophageal cancer in 2003 at age 59. He had renewed his law license specifically to defend Simpson, and his

longtime friend stayed in Kardashian's home between the time of the murders and his arrest. When Simpson fled authorities in a white Ford Bronco on June 17, 1994, Kardashian read to reporters a rambling message Simpson had left behind as a bizarre, nationally televised, slow-speed freeway chase unfolded. Since his death, Kardashian's fame has been eclipsed by that of ex-wife, Kris, and children, Kourtney, Kim, Khloe and Rob, thanks to their reality show, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians."

Robert Shapiro, the first member of Simpson's defense team, continues to practice law. In 2005 he founded the Brent Shapiro Foundation to help steer young people from drug and alcohol addiction after his 24-year-old son died of an overdose. He also co-founded LegalZoom.com, a do-it-yourself service for people seeking to file legal documents without the help of attorneys, and RightCounsel.com for people searching for an attorney.

Barry Scheck was the lawyer who introduced DNA science to jurors as he attacked police methods of evidence collection to undermine the prosecution's forensic evidence case. He and fellow Simpson lawyer Peter Neufeld co-founded The Innocence Project that uses DNA evi-

dence to exonerate wrongly convicted prisoners. The project has helped overturn hundreds of convictions.

F. Lee Bailey was the lawyer who played a key role in exposing racist statements made by one of the prosecution's key witnesses, police Detective Mark Fuhrman, undermining Fuhrman's credibility. When he joined the defense team, Bailey already was famous for his role in some of the most high-profile cases of the 20th century, including that of heiress-turned-bank-robber Patricia Hearst. Bailey, now 86, was disbarred in Massachusetts and Florida in the early 2000s for misconduct in handling a client's case. His efforts to be reinstated have been unsuccessful.

THE PROSECUTORS

Marcia Clark, the trial's lead prosecutor, quit law after the case, although she has appeared frequently as a TV commentator on high-profile trials over the years and on numerous TV news shows. She was paid \$4 million for her Simpson trial memoir, "Without a Doubt," and has gone on to write a series of crime novels.

Chris Darden, the co-prosecutor, was criticized for having Simpson try on the bloody gloves without first ensuring they would fit. He is now a defense attorney himself. He recently represented the man charged with killing hip-hop

mogul Nipsey Hussle before withdrawing from the case, saying his family had received death threats. Darden has also taught law, appeared on television as a legal commentator and wrote of his Simpson trial experiences in the book, "In Contempt."

THE JUDGE

Lance Ito, who retired in 2015, presided over approximately 500 trials after the one that made him such a household name that "The Tonight Show" briefly featured a comedy segment called "The Dancing Ito," in which Ito lookalikes in judicial robes performed. After the Simpson trial he had to remove his name plate from his courtroom door because people kept stealing it. Ito has never discussed the trial, citing judicial ethics.

THE HOUSEGUEST

Brian "Kato" Kaelin, a struggling actor living in a guest house on Simpson's property, testified he heard a bump during the night of the murders and went outside to find Simpson in the yard, something prosecutors say showed Simpson was sneaking back home after the killings. Mocked on talk shows as America's most famous houseguest, Kaelin has gone on to appear in reality shows, in small parts in TV sitcoms and films, and to launch a clothing line for slackers. In recent years he's been a regular at Wizard World Comic Con in St. Louis.

'Hadestown' captures 8 Tony Awards, including best musical



The company of "Hadestown," accepts the award for best musical at the 73rd annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall on Sunday, June 9, 2019, in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—"Hadestown," the brooding musical about the underworld, has reason to smile broadly: It's the best new musical Tony Award winner and nabbed eight trophies Sunday, including a rare win for a woman director of a musical.

Playwright Jez Butterworth's "The Ferryman" was crowned best play. Bryan Cranston, Elaine May, Santino Fontana and Stephanie J. Block all won leading actor and actress awards.

The crowd at Radio City Music Hall erupted when Ali Stroker made history as the first actor in a wheelchair to win a Tony Award. Stroker, paralyzed from the chest down due to a car crash when she was 2, won for featured actresses in a musical for her work in a dark revival of "Oklahoma!"

"This award is for every kid who is watching tonight who has a disability, who has a limitation or a challenge, who has been waiting to see themselves represented in this arena," she said. "You are."

Rachel Chavkin, the only woman to helm a new Broadway musical this season, won the Tony for best director of a musical for "Hadestown." She told the crowd she was sorry to be such a rarity on Broadway.

"There are so many women who are ready to go. There are so many people of color who are ready to go." A lack of strides in embracing diversity

on Broadway, she said, "is not a pipeline issue" but a lack of imagination.

Cranston seemed to tap into the vibe when he won the Tony for best leading man in a play award for his work as newscaster Howard Beale in a stage adaptation of "Network."

"Finally, a straight old white man gets a break!" he joked. The star, who wore a blue pin on his suit to support reproductive rights, also dedicated his award to journalists who are in the line of fire. "The media is not the enemy of the people," he said. "Demagoguery is the enemy of the people."

The cheers for women also got a boost when Butterworth, who earlier asked the crowd to give his partner, actress Laura Donnelly, a round of applause for giving birth to their two children in two years while working on the ensemble drama, handed the best play trophy to Donnelly. A Donnelly family story inspired him to write the play.

Fontana won his first Tony Award as the cross-dressing lead in "Tootsie." Fontana, perhaps best known for his singing role as Hans in "Frozen," won in an adaptation of the 1982 Dustin Hoffman film about a struggling actor who impersonated a woman in order to improve his chances of getting a job.

Another first-time winner was Block, who earned her Tony Award for playing a legend—Cher. Block, who has had roles on "Homeland" and "Orange Is the New Black," is one of three actresses to play

WINNERS' LIST

NEW YORK (AP)—Select winners at the 2019 Tony Awards.

- **Best Musical:** "Hadestown"
- **Best Play:** "The Ferryman"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical:** Stephanie J. Block, "The Cher Show"
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical:** Santino Fontana, "Tootsie"
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play:** Bryan Cranston, "Network"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play:** Elaine May, "The Waverly Gallery"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical:** Ali Stroker, "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!"
- **Best Performance by an**

Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical: André De Shields, "Hadestown"

■ **Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play:** Celia Keenan-Bolger, "To Kill a Mockingbird"

■ **Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play:** Bertie Carvel, "Ink"

■ **Best Direction of a Musical:** Rachel Chavkin, "Hadestown"

■ **Best Direction of a Play:** Sam Mendes, "The Ferryman"

■ **Best Revival of a Play:** "The Boys in the Band"

■ **Best Revival of a Musical:** "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!"

■ **Best Original Score (Music and/or Lyrics) Written for the Theater:** "Hadestown"

the title character in the musical "The Cher Show." She thanked "the goddess Cher for her life and legacy."

Other winners included the legendary May, who took home her first ever Tony for best leading actress, playing the Alzheimer's-afflicted grandmother in Kenneth Lonergan's comic drama "The Waverly Gallery."

Andre DeShields captured featured actor in a musical for "Hadestown," his first Tony at the age of 73. In his speech, he gave "three cardinal rules of my sustainability and longevity.

"One, surround yourself with people whose eyes light up when they see you coming. Two, slowly is the fastest way to get to where you want to be, and three, the top of one mountain is the bottom of the next, so keep climbing."

Corden, in his second stint as Tony host, was at his fan-boy best, whether anxiously hiding in a bathroom with previous hosts Josh Groban and Sara Bareillies or trying to provoke a Nicki Minaj-Cardi B-style beef between usually overly polite and supportive Broadway figures (Laura Linney and Audra McDonald fi-

nally obliged). He also asked celebrities to sing karaoke during the commercials.

He kicked off the show with a massive, nine-minute opening number that served as a full-throated endorsement of the live experience, with Corden beginning it seated alone on a couch in front of a TV, overwhelmed by his binge options, before taking flight with dozens of glitzy dancers from this season's shows, all filling the Radio City stage with an unprecedented volume.

"Live!/We do it live/And every single moment's unrepeatable," he sang. "Live!/We do it live/It can't be hashtagged and it isn't tweetable." But the song ended with an acknowledgement that appointment TV—Corden mentioned a long list that included "Game of Thrones," "Fleabag," "Black Mirror" and "The Walking Dead," among the options—is irresistible. He apologized to TV and blamed McDonald for making him criticize the small screen.

The first acting award went to Celia Keenan-Bolger, who won for best featured actress in a play for her role as Scout in "To Kill a Mockingbird." She noted that her parents read her the book when she was a child in Detroit and had burning crosses put on their lawn because they helped African Americans.

Bertie Carvel won best featured actor in a play for "Ink." He said he wished he could be with his mother, hospitalized in London: "I love you, mum."

Oscar-winning director and

producer Sam Mendes won his first directing Tony Award for guiding "The Ferryman."

"The Ferryman's" Rob Howell took home two Tonys—for best play set designs and costumes. Robert Horn won for best book of a musical for "Tootsie."

Early "Hadestown" wins were for scenic design, sound design, lighting design and orchestrations. It would also go on to earn singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell a Tony for best score.

Legendary designer Bob Mackie won the Tony for best costume designs for a musical for "The Cher Show," getting laughs for saying "This is very encouraging for an 80-year-old."

The dark retelling of "Oklahoma!" beat the lush and playful revival of the rival Golden Age musical "Kiss Me, Kate" to the Tony Award for best musical revival. "The Boys in the Band" was crowned best play revival.

Sergio Trujillo won the best choreography prize for "Ain't Too Proud—The Life and Times of the Temptations," saying in his speech that he arrived in New York decades ago without legal permission. "I'm here to tell you the American dream is alive," he said.

The awards cap a season that showed Broadway was in good shape. The shows this season reported a record \$1.8 billion in sales, up 7.8 percent from last season. Attendance was 14.8 million—up 7.1 percent—and has risen steadily for decades.

Chris Pratt, Katherine Schwarzenegger announce marriage

Chris Pratt and Katherine Schwarzenegger were married over the weekend in a ceremony that the "Guardians of

the Galaxy" actor called "intimate, moving and emotional." Pratt announced the nuptials Sunday in an Instagram post accompanied by a photo of the couple walking hand-in-hand. He said they were married Saturday "in front of God, our families and those we love." The pair began dating last summer and became engaged in January.

Pratt, 39, also is known for his role on the hit TV show "Parks and Recreation." Schwarzenegger, 29, is an author and the elder daughter of actor and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and journalist Maria Shriver.

She wrote the children's book "Maverick and Me" in 2017 and the positive self-image book "Rock What You've Got: Secrets to Loving Your Inner and Outer Beauty from Someone Who's Been There and Back" in 2010.

This is Pratt's second marriage. He was divorced in the fall from actress Anna Faris after nearly nine years of marriage. They have a son, Jack, who was born in August 2012. (AP)



the Galaxy" actor called "intimate, moving and emotional." Pratt announced the nuptials Sunday in an Instagram post accompanied by a photo of the couple walking hand-in-hand. He said they were married Saturday "in front of God, our families and those we love."

The pair began dating last summer and became engaged in January.

After 30 years, husband says marriage isn't what he wanted

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: Just months before our 30th wedding anniversary, my husband told me he doesn't love me and never wanted to marry me. I am beyond devastated. I feel I have wasted the best years of my life. We have two beautiful daughters who are my everything.

When he revealed this news to me, it turned my life upside down. I don't know how to process it or what to do. I have spent years begging him to be more affectionate and loving. I always assumed he just didn't know how to show love. It never crossed my mind that he has never loved me. I feel naive, betrayed and robbed.

HOPELESS IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR HOPELESS: When your husband handed you that "bouquet," was he angry or inebriated? It is hard to believe that a man would stay married for 30 years to someone he didn't love and didn't want to marry in the first place. (Shotgun weddings are long out of style.)

Revisit that conversation with him, and if he tells you he meant what he said, you are justified in feeling the way you describe. The questions then become are you better with him or without him, and what are your legal rights in the state in which you and this man live. (Not referring to him as your "husband" was not an oversight.)

DEAR ABBY: I recently left my job and flew across the country for an internship on a small farm to learn about sustainable farming. I have been here a week. I have met some awesome people and have been having some fun with them in my free time. However, I'm now having second thoughts.

This is hard, physical labor, and my living conditions are a lot more rustic and communal than I was led to believe. There is no electricity in our quarters, and we cook our meals outside on a propane stove. Also, the internship is unpaid, and I'll have to pay to take a summer class.

While I feel I am benefiting from this experience, I miss my old job (which I can get back) and the more comfortable lifestyle. Do you think I need to give this internship more time?

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

DEAR ACROSS: You signed on for the internship for a good reason—to learn. Having done that, it will be not only educational but also character-building to see it through until the end of the summer. This isn't forever, and the lessons you learn may last a lifetime.

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old son has difficulty expressing himself and keeps things bottled up. You often advise people to seek counseling. Could you please advise me about how to begin that process and how to find the right fit and person for one's individual needs?

INVOLVED PARENT IN VIRGINIA

DEAR PARENT: Start by asking your doctor to refer you to a specialist who works with adolescents. The company that provides your health insurance can also give you some referrals. After you and your son meet the candidates, it is simply a matter of choosing a therapist your son feels comfortable talking with.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

'Secret Life of Pets 2' bests 'Dark Phoenix' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After nearly 20 years and a dozen films, the current manifestation of X-Men movies is going out with a whimper.

Scorched by poor reviews, the \$200 million "Dark Phoenix" earned a franchise low of \$33 million from 3,721 North American locations over the weekend for a second place finish, according to studio estimates Sunday. First place went instead to "The Secret Life of Pets 2."

The Universal Pictures and Illumination sequel, featuring the voices of Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish and Harrison Ford in his first animated role, grossed an estimated \$47.1 million in ticket sales. Although less than half of what the first film opened to in 2016, it's still a major win for the studio, considering the production budget was around \$80 million. Including international grosses, its global total is already sitting at \$97 million.

"It's a fantastic result," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic theatrical distribution. "We couldn't be more proud to partner with (CEO) Chris Meledandri and everyone at Illumination."

He noted that this is the ninth No. 1 opening for Illumination, the animated arm responsible for the "Despicable Me" movies.

With decidedly less stellar results, "Dark Phoenix" trailed behind the talking animals. Directed by longtime X-Men scribe Simon Kinberg, it focuses on Jean Grey who is played by Sophie Turner fresh off of her "Game of Thrones" run as Sansa Stark. It also brings back James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jen-

nifer Lawrence. It's the de facto conclusion to the modern X-Men movies that started in 2000, and also the first major 20th Century Fox film to be released by the Walt Disney Co. following the acquisition.

But the quality wasn't there and it scored even worse reviews overall than the widely-disparaged "X-Men: Apocalypse." Audiences who showed up seemed to concur with the critics, giving it a deadly B- CinemaScore.

"It's softer than we hoped," said Cathleen Taff, Disney's president of theatrical distribution. "While the film didn't open the way we wanted, we think the legacy of the X-Men series is important and it's more important than how one film opens. We're trying to

keep it in perspective."

Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore noted even with the lackluster North American debut and reception, that internationally "Dark Phoenix" was No. 1 with \$107 million from 53 territories including China. Globally, its earned \$140 million.

"In the international marketplace, it seems like the spectacle and the brand wins out," Dergarabedian said.

Also, the X-Men characters, which had been licensed to Fox, are now expected to be integrated with Disney's stable of characters in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Plus, Disney has another winner in its books in "Aladdin," which coasted to third place in its third weekend with another

\$24.5 million. Globally it has earned \$604.9 million to date.

Warner Bros.' "Godzilla: King of The Monsters" had a titan-sized second weekend fall, however, down 67% with \$15.5 million.

And the acclaimed Elton John biopic "Rocketman," from Paramount Pictures, rounded out the top five with \$14 million.

While wide-releases are having mixed results lately, independent and platform releases are finding healthy audiences. After "Booksmart" failed to make a major dent going wide out of the gates, Amazon Studios opened its Mindy Kaling and Emma Thompson comedy "Late Night" in four theaters, where it earned a healthy \$249,654 this weekend, before expanding nationwide next week.

Employing a similar strategy, A24's "The Last Black Man in San Francisco" also scored in seven locations with \$230,744.

Also, overall the box office is healthy. The weekend is up 37% from last year when "Ocean's 8" opened and the year to date deficit improved again. The year is now down 5.9%.

"Some movies may have not lived up to expectations but the marketplace is knocking down the year to date deficit at a really fast pace," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "The Secret Life of Pets 2," \$47.1 million (\$16 million international).	Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Comscore:
2. "Dark Phoenix," \$33 million (\$107 million international).	1. "Dark Phoenix," \$107 million.
3. "Aladdin," \$24.5 million (\$67.6 million international).	2. "Aladdin," \$67.6 million.
4. "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," \$15.5 million (\$47.1 million international).	3. "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," \$47.1 million.
5. "Rocketman," \$14 million (\$13 million international).	4. "My Best Summer (Zui Hao De Wo Men)," \$22.7 million.
6. "Ma," \$7.8 million (\$3 million international).	5. "Chasing the Dragon 2: Wild Wild Bunch," \$22.4 million.
7. "John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum," \$7.4 million (\$10.1 million international).	6. "Parasite," \$20.8 million.
8. "Avengers: Endgame," \$4.8 million (\$3.8 million international).	7. "The Secret Life of Pets 2," \$16 million.
9. "Pokémon Detective Pikachu," \$3 million (\$7.1 million international).	8. "Rocketman," \$13 million.
10. "Booksmart," \$1.6 million (\$206,000 international).	9. "John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum," \$10.1 million.
	10. "Pokémon Detective Pikachu," \$7.1 million.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rescue
5 Ozone, for one
8 Protracted
12 Carolina college
13 Roswell sighting
14 Falco of "The Sopranos"
15 "Game on!"
17 Snitch
18 Service charge
19 Rowing need
20 Road curves
21 Schlep
22 Deity
23 Everglades wader
26 Cure-all
30 Bump into
31 "Terrific!"
32 Astronaut Arm-strong
33 Tennis tactic
35 Tea biscuit

DOWN

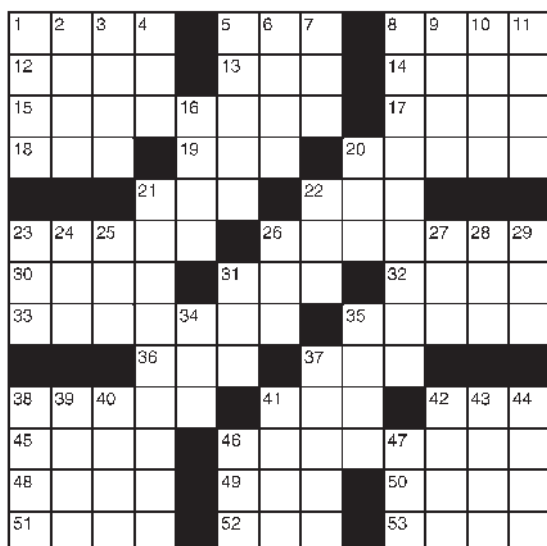
1 Narcissist's love
2 Sheltered
3 Cast a ballot
4 Em
5 Soviet labor camp
6 Miles away
7 Tofu source
8 #1 hit by David Bowie
9 Rhyming tributes
10 Egyptian river
11 Hair goops
16 Sulk

20 A billion years
21 Words at the start of a lesson
22 Talk on and on
23 Ambulance VIP
24 Earth (Pref.)
25 Gym unit
26 Skillet
27 Biz
28 Aachen article
29 Pub pint
31 Repair
34 Cauldron
35 Totals
37 Hollanders
38 Engrossed
39 Curved molding
40 Impale
41 Coop group
42 Long tale
43 Friend
44 Aspen gear
46 Meadow
47 Vat

Solution time: 22 mins.

G	E	L	A	B	S	B	A	B	A
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L	E	A	H	A	I	R	F	E	E
S	C	R	U	B	-	C	A	F	
P	S	Y	C	H	I	C	S	T	A
U	T	A	H	G	A	B	D	I	V
C	U	R	S	E	R	A	D	I	C
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U	P	U	P	I	O	N	E	P	E
Z	I	N	E	T	A	B	R	A	T
I	G	O	R	E	T	A	D	A	N

Yesterday's answer 6-11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Claire Holt, 31; Shia LaBeouf, 33; Peter Dinklage, 50; Hugh Laurie, 60.

Happy Birthday: Spend time with people who put a smile on your face. You don't have to go overboard to have a good time. Consider putting time and effort into minimizing your lifestyle to ensure you have more time and extra cash readily available to do the things you enjoy most with those you love. Your numbers are 2, 5, 17, 21, 33, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay calm, and revert to something that makes you feel good. A makeover or healthier lifestyle will help you gain insight into possibilities. Expand your horizons instead of letting what others do limit you. Embrace life, and live in the moment. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go over your current situation and your daily routine. Question what others are asking you to do, and offer what you feel is fair. Taking the initiative to do things your way will encourage greater support and respect. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Plan an outing with someone who enjoys the same things you do. A physical improvement will lift your spirits and give you that extra push to clear up unfinished business. An important relationship will lead to a positive personal change. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Go about your business without making a fuss or offering too much personal information. You'll get the most in return if you are accom-

modating and offer suggestions that are forward-thinking and filled with incentives. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your best to help others without going above and beyond what's expected of you. People will take advantage of you if you let them. Don't feel obligated to make a change because someone pressures you. Don't neglect your needs. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Practicality will be your saving grace when faced with someone who is looking for a hand-out. Use your imagination, and make suggestions that will not put you in a vulnerable position. Use intelligence to master your skills and reach your goal. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a journey that will touch you emotionally and encourage you to recognize the choices you have and the negatives in your life that you should eliminate. Put emotions aside when dealing with difficult people, and keep the peace. ★★★

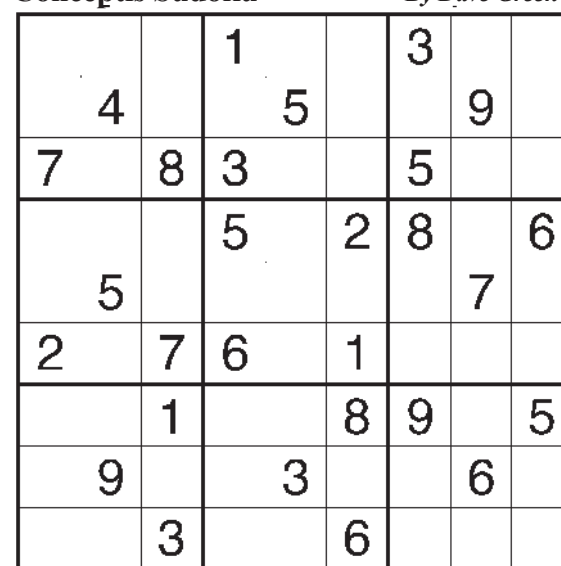
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Venture into unfamiliar territory. What you experience will motivate you to take on a new project or to make adjustments to your current lifestyle. Intellectual stimulation will enhance your life, relationships and choices. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be tempted to get involved in a joint venture that is lopsided. Before you decide to help someone else get ahead, consider doing something that you can do on your own. Personal improvement will lead to personal gain. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



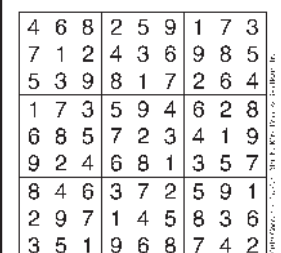
Difficulty Level ★★

6/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change should be made for the right reason. Check your motives before you dash into something that may not be right for you. Don't let someone use emotional tactics to manipulate you. Be smart, and make decisions based on intelligence, not emotions. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick close to home, and catch up on overdue paperwork, projects or personal situations that need to be addressed. A physical improvement can be made if you start a new health regimen. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your life simple, and stick to a set budget. It's admirable to help others, but first take care of your needs. Networking or getting together with people you have worked with in the past will be eye-opening. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are popular, original and entertaining. You are flexible and persuasive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CEPHALOPODS

Solution: 8 letters

N N H E A R I N G W L N S M L
O O S R H E T A M I O O W I A
H I I O T T L L M I L R I N V
P T F T W A D B S T U L M V I
I C E A O W S I H M H J S E V
S U L U R M V T U C K G E R R
E S T Q G N O R Q O A I T U
L S T E A O R C N A S L E S
C P U E T A T M C K E S O B H
A R C P U F A E L L E H S R R
T O R Q O R L G R A D U L A I
N P A S I T S G L A N D S T M
E E B N N K C S M U S C L E P
T L E A G L A O S R E K C U S
C A M O U F L A G E P A H S S

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6/11

Algae, Aquarium, Beak, Camouflage, Color, Crab, Cuttlefish, Eggs, Eight, Equator, Gills, Glands, Growth, Hearing, Hearts, Ink, Invertebrate, Jets, Limbs, Locomotion, Mantle, Marine, Mass, Mate, Muscle, Ocean, Octopus, Propel, Radula, Shape, Shell, Shrimp, Siphon, Soft, Squid, Suckers, Suction, Survival, Swim, Tentacles, Tooth, Vision, Water, Worm

Yesterday's Answer: Sourdough

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Raptors exhibiting uncanny calm as history beckons

TORONTO—There are moments in life when the energy around you is palpable; when the emotions of the collective overpower any preparation, effort, or logic. At its worst, it is a virus spreading darkness across everything in sight. At its best, there is no tunnel that doesn't lead to sunshine.

After Game 1 of the East semis between Toronto and Cleveland a year ago, you could sense that it wasn't just a game lost by the Raptors, but the series. LeBron James and the Cavaliers were making the trek to Canada on their lone day off after a first-round battle against the gritty Indiana Pacers that went the distance, and had noticeably heavy legs against a Toronto team on three days rest.

Yet, despite leading by as many as 14 and holding an eight-point lead with just over eight minutes remaining, the Raptors found a way to lose to their nemesis, bringing back all the hurt of the past and never giving themselves a chance to believe that this time might just be different. There were complaints about a flagrant foul call that never came and the unluckiness of missing chippies at the basket, but nothing concrete to really own their collective failure nor embrace the loss for what it was in that moment: an 0-1 deficit in a series that's first to four.

But what a difference a year makes.

When the Game 1 narrative police came out to say these Raptors were the same after dropping their playoff opener to the Orlando Magic, they went ahead and won four straight. When Jimmy Butler scored off a missed free throw by Kawhi Leonard to tie up a Game 7 with under five seconds and knot up stomachs across the north, the bounce shot happened. Even when the Raptors lost a Game 1 most felt they should have had in Milwaukee because of a 30-point night for Kyle Lowry, it didn't matter.

So, after the Raptors defeated the Golden State Warriors for the second straight time at Oracle Arena in the NBA Finals, perhaps it was telling yet unsurprising when the players were shown heading to the locker room without any level of emotion.

Stoic and almost unaware that they had just won a game that put them within a single win of claiming the franchise's first ever Larry O'Brien Trophy, that's exactly what makes this team well prepared to close out a series in which they have a 3-1 lead.

"It wasn't just like as soon as the game is over somebody went in and told us, 'Hey look, this is how you got to act.' I



AP
Toronto Raptors' Kawhi Leonard shoots during an NBA basketball practice in Toronto, Sunday June 9, 2019, ahead of Monday's Game 5 of the NBA Finals against the Golden State Warriors.

think everybody was just like that before we even got to the locker room, before we even got a chance to talk to each other. As I said, it's appropriate fear, that necessary focus that we need to be able to make this thing happen," coach Nick Nurse said.

Appropriate fear, ironically, is a mantra the Warriors have sworn by over the course of winning three of the past four titles and Andre Iguodala made special mention of it before Game 1 of these Finals. As the winds change and the foundation of a dynasty cracks before our very eyes, there has been another very noticeable shift in the Toronto paradigm:

this group legitimately knows what it takes.

They have treated every game this post-season as its own entity. Momentum? That's for teams looking for something to cling onto in the face of self-doubt. There are teams that understand the task at hand and what they need to do in order to achieve it, and teams that begin to doubt their ability to do so. It was evident when the Warriors came back from a 3-1 deficit against the Oklahoma City Thunder, and even more so when the Cavaliers pulled off the feat against those Warriors

in the Finals three years ago.

Steph Curry, he who has broken the laws of shooting and the dynamics of spacing with his quick-yet-lethal trigger had an opportunity to win Game 7 of 2016 NBA Finals matched up against Kevin Love, but despite drawing the big man out near logo range, settled for a tough, contested three and lives to rue that day.

"I look back and think I could have easily gone around [Kevin Love] and gotten a two ... that was not a shot where I was under control, and it cost us a championship," Curry said.

But control is what these Raptors have exhibited right from training camp. No battle of egos when Nurse opted for a time-share at the center position, no angst or frustration over the load management for Leonard, even on nights when others battled through pain. No panic over the injuries that befell the team throughout the regular season and allowed them a full roster availability for precisely one game.

It is unbecoming of Raptors teams past, but this is who this year's edition is.

"They have been good," Nurse said after practice Sunday. "I think our collective IQ, our experience and our

demeanor has been good after these games. We'll see tomorrow. But, so far, they have gone in after games and talked about continuing to work and improve. There's still a lot of room for improvement, so we get another chance to do that tomorrow."

"I think that's the one thing that we have all kind of, just like—our end goal would be a championship. And that's what we have been working for all year."

The pursuit of a standard of excellence has been led by Leonard this post-season. So has the belief that they can get there, and the calm that they will. Averaging 30.8 points, 10.3 rebounds, four assists, two steals and a block while shooting 40.3 percent from three-point range and 93.6 percent from the free-throw line on 48 attempts through four games, the 27-year-old has been building for precisely this moment and has risen with every occasion.

"Human beings, we do think in the future," Leonard said. "Been thinking in the future since the beginning of the season, just trying to get to this point. You just got to stay current and stay in your routine, be patient and not rush anything."

The moment many have waited 24 years for may come in Game 5, it may not. But what makes you feel like it will, eventually, is that these Raptors are comfortable in who they are, where they are right now, and what they could become.



Warriors say Durant will practice before Game 5

TORONTO (AP)—Kevin Durant was playing basketball on Sunday.

The Golden State Warriors hope he will again on Monday.

With the Warriors' backs to the wall now in the NBA Finals, Durant—now out for more than a month with a strained calf—was taking the practice floor on Sunday in an effort to determine if he will be able to play in Game 5 of the title series on Monday night.

The Warriors trail the Toronto Raptors 3-1 in the series, and need three straight wins to capture a third straight championship.

"He'll get some extra work in with some of our younger players and we'll gauge it from there," Warriors coach

Steve Kerr said.

Durant was not made available to comment. The Warriors had their media availability in Toronto on Sunday prior to the practice session. Durant averaged 26.0 points per game for the Warriors during the regular season and 34.2 points in 11 playoff games before he got hurt in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals against Houston.

The Warriors are 6-3 in the nine games Durant has missed.

"It's just having another powerful weapon out there who can do some very dynamic things on the floor," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said.

Kerr said the plan was to see if Durant could clear

some hurdles that he hasn't crossed during his recovery. Kerr said earlier in the series that Durant could return after completing one practice.

"He will be very welcomed, I'll tell you that much," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "I think it's pretty easy to realize we obviously miss him out there. He's propelled us to two championships in the last two years, so it'd be pretty storybook if he comes back and helps us do the same. ... I know how badly he wants to be out there. He's one of the best competitors I've ever been around."

Toronto allowed Kobe Bryant to score 81 points on Jan. 22, 2006. In the 1,175 Raptors games since, the most anyone

has scored against them is 51 points—done twice, done both times in Toronto, and done both times by Durant.

He had 51 for Oklahoma City in Toronto on March 21, 2014, and scored 51 for the Warriors on the Raptors' home floor back on Nov. 29. Even if he isn't 100%, Durant's mere presence should make the Warriors more potent on the offensive end.

The Raptors will have a plan, of course, if Durant gets on the floor Monday night.

"If he plays, he's an MVP, he's an All-NBA player, he's an All-Star, Finals MVP," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "But we can't focus on that. We have to focus on ourselves."

King of clay Nadal reigns in French Open

PARIS (AP)—For a few, fleeting moments Sunday, Rafael Nadal found his French Open supremacy seemingly threatened by Dominic Thiem, a younger, talented opponent challenging him in the final for the second consecutive year.

A poor game from Nadal allowed Thiem to break him and even things at a set apiece. That development brought fans to their feet in Court Philippe Chatrier, roaring and clapping and, above all, wondering: Was this, now, a real contest? Could Thiem push Nadal more? Could Thiem make this surge last? Would Nadal falter?

That the questions arose at all was significant. The answers arrived swiftly. Nadal reasserted himself, as he usually does at Roland Garros, by grabbing 16 of the next 17 points and 12 of the remaining 14 games, pulling away to beat Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 for his record-extending 12th championship at the French Open.

“He stepped on me,” Thiem said. “The numbers are crazy. He won it 12 times.”

No one in tennis ever has won any major tournament that frequently. Then again, no one ever has been as suited for success on any of the sport’s surfaces as this 33-year-old Spaniard is on red clay: Nadal is 93-2 for his career at Roland Garros, winning four in a row from 2005-08, five in a row from 2010-14, and now three in a row.

“I can’t explain my emotions,” said the No. 2-seeded Nadal, who dropped to his back after the final point, getting that rust-colored dirt all over his neon yellow shirt, then wiped away tears during the trophy ceremony.

Looking at the bigger picture, he is now up to 18 Grand Slam trophies, moving within two of Roger Federer’s men’s record of 20.

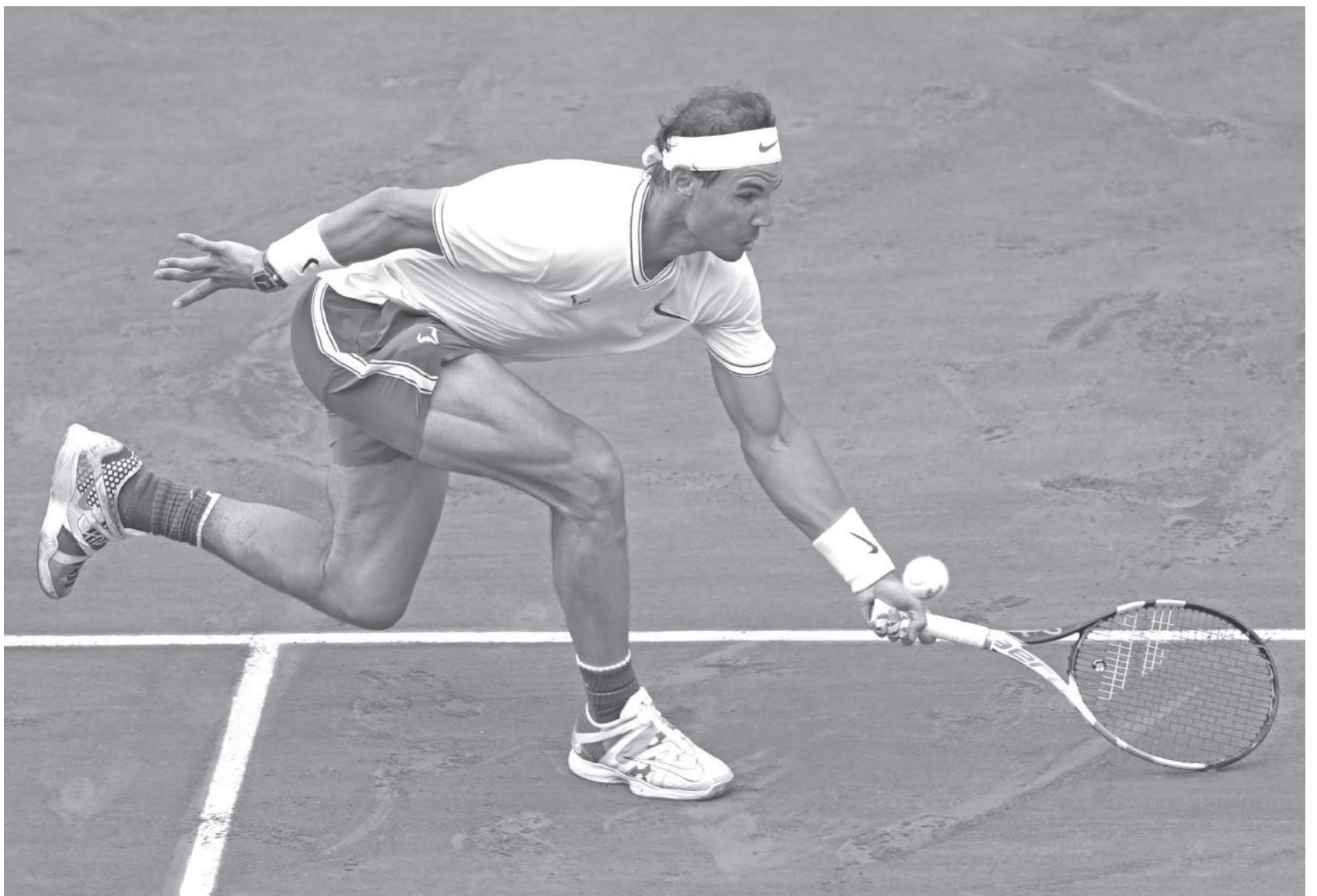
Nadal, however, did not want to entertain any discussion of a pursuit of Federer.

“I am not very worried about this stuff,” Nadal said. “You can’t be frustrated all the time because the neighbor has a bigger house than you or a bigger TV or better garden.”

Thiem, a 25-year-old Austrian who was seeded No. 4 and upset No. 1 Novak Djokovic in a draining, rain-interrupted semifinal played over two days, was eyeing his first major title in this rematch of the 2018 final in Paris. But again, he couldn’t solve Nadal.

“First thing that I want to say is congrats to Dominic. I feel sorry, because he deserves it here, too,” Nadal said. “He has an unbelievable intensity.”

So, of course, does Nadal. This had been, by his lofty



Spain's Rafael Nadal reaches for the ball as he plays Austria's Dominic Thiem during the men's final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 9, 2019. AP

standards, a rough season, from the most lopsided Grand Slam final loss of his career—against Djokovic at the Australian Open—to entering May without a title for the first year since 2004. Injuries, as often is the case with Nadal, were a problem, including a bad right knee.

“Mentally, I lost a little bit (of) energy, because I had too many issues in a row,” Nadal said, tapping his right fingers on his temple.

“When you are constantly hit in the face,” he said in Spanish, “you end up being hurt.”

He started to right himself by taking the Italian Open title on clay last month.

“It was very important for him to win in Rome. It was like he realized that he was getting back on the good level, on the right path,” said Nadal’s coach, 1998 French Open champion Carlos Moya, “and gaining a lot of confidence.”

Soon enough, Nadal found himself in a familiar position in Paris: playing in the final, and winning it.

This one began on a cloudy afternoon, with the temperature in the low 60s (mid-teens Celsius) and only a slight breeze. In the initial game—interrupted briefly by a baby wailing in the stands, drawing a laugh from other spectators and prompting Nadal to back away from the base-

line between serves—three of the five points lasted at least 11 strokes.

And, thereby, a pattern was established: By the end of the 3-hour, 1-minute match, a total of 46 points went 10 strokes or more. Each man claimed half.

From the get-go, it was such a physical grind that Nadal was soaked with sweat and changed neon yellow shirts after just seven games, eliciting catcalls from the stands.

Early on, there were no signs of fatigue for Thiem, even though he was competing for a fourth straight day.

Indeed, it was Thiem who nosed ahead first, closing a

12-stroke exchange by ripping a forehand to earn the first break point, then converting it with an overhead on a 20-stroke exchange for a 3-2 edge. He turned with a clenched right hand to face his guest box, where his girlfriend, women’s doubles champion Kristina Mladenovic, was pumping her fist and shouting.

Nadal immediately responded. He grabbed the next four games with elan, using a drop shot to help break for a 5-3 lead, then a serve-and-volley to help hold for the set.

That must have been demoralizing for Thiem. But at the ensuing changeover, he

didn’t whack a ball toward the stands, as Federer memorably did during his semifinal loss to Nadal. Thiem casually sat in his gray sideline seat, bounced his legs and chewed on an energy bar, furtively glancing at Nadal.

Thiem bounced back, if only briefly. Talk about a stunning shift: Nadal won 25 of 26 points on his serve before—with spectators trading between-point chants of nicknames, “Ra-fa!” and “Do-mi!”—he got broken to cede the second set. That was the only set Thiem managed to steal from Nadal in four career meetings at Roland Garros.

Maybe this was going to be a long one.

But Thiem, put simply, wilted. Enough to create an opening Nadal barged through.

By now, Nadal was creating magic at the net, and he won the point on 23 of 27 times he went forward. One drop volley was spun so marvelously that it landed on Thiem’s side, then bounced back toward the net. All Thiem could do was watch—and offer an appreciative thumbs-up.

“Almost everybody will tell you that he’s one of the best volleyers of our game,” Thiem said. “Because the last time he missed a volley was, maybe, seven years ago, I guess.”

Soon enough, it was over. The King of Clay, as Nadal is known, still reigns.

McIlroy wins Canadian Open with scorching final-round 61



ANCASTER, Ontario (AP) —

Call it the zone, call it the flow. Rory McIlroy is familiar with the feeling that golf is easy, that he can swing freely and nothing bad will happen.

He first felt it at age 16 when he shot 61 at Royal Portrush in his native Northern Ireland, which will host this year’s British Open. He experienced it during runaway victories at the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship. And

he savored it again on Sunday en route to another 61, this one giving him a seven-shot victory in the Canadian Open.

“I think when you play, you get into stretches like this, you do get into some sort of flow, that flow state or in the zone or whatever anyone wants to call it. I definitely got into that a little bit today at the start of the back nine. It was the same that day at Portrush all those years ago,” McIlroy said.

McIlroy added the Canadian Open to his schedule for the first time largely because

it was moved to the week before the U.S. Open.

Tiger starts prep work for US Open

In California, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, Tiger Woods arrived at Pebble Beach Golf Links for a relaxed practice round before the 119th edition of the U.S. Open.

Accompanied by his cad-die Joe LaCava and friend Rob McNamara, Woods played alone and took his time hitting a variety of shots, driver off the tee, shots into

the green, putts and chips.

Woods last played the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in 2012, finishing in a tie for 15th. Sunday he got reacquainted with the green complexes that to his eyes were smaller than ever. And Pebble has never been set up longer than it is now with the addition of some new tees.

He got to the course around lunch time and hit balls on the range for about 30 minutes before heading to the first tee. He said the course was very soft but expects it will firm up this week.

Moustakas' HR earns fan car; Brewers top Pirates



**MILWAU-
KEE**—Mike
Moustakas

launched a homer that won a new car for a fan, NL MVP Christian Yelich hit his major-league leading 24th home run on his bobble-head day and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-2 Sunday for a three-game sweep, at Milwaukee.

Moustakas connected for his 20th homer off Francisco Liriano (1-1), a tiebreaking, two-run drive in the eighth inning that hit a promotional car perched above the right-center field fence. The Brewers said season ticketholder Mark Gruber was the fortunate fan. He'll get the keys to his new SUV in a pregame presentation on June 20.

Jeremy Jeffress (1-0) pitched the eighth. Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth for his 16th save and moved the Brewers a season-high 10 games over .500.

Nationals 5, Padres 2: At San Diego, Howie Kendrick, Trea Turner, Adam Eaton and Anthony Rendon hit consecutive home runs in a span of seven pitches off Craig Stammen (4-3) with one out in the eighth.

With the score tied at 1, Kendrick was pinch-hitting for Stephen Strasburg (7-3) when he started the homer parade with a shot to left, his 11th. Turner followed with a drive to center, his fourth, and Eaton's homer just cleared the wall in center, his sixth. Fans began booing then, and piled on after Rendon homered to right-center, his 12th.

Reds 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Joey Votto tied the game for Cincinnati with a two-out single in the seventh inning and Eugenio Suarez followed with the go-ahead hit as the Reds avoided a three-game sweep.

Bryce Harper got tangled



AP
Milwaukee's Mike Moustakas catches the ball off the bat of Pittsburgh Pirates' Josh Bell during the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 9, 2019, in Milwaukee.

up in a pair of plays at the plate, scoring from second on a misplayed popup but getting thrown out on an attempted steal of home.

Raisel Iglesias allowed the potential tying run to reach on first base in the ninth but tossed a scoreless inning for his 13th save. Zach Duke (3-1) pitched one-third of an inning, helping stop Philadelphia's four-game winning streak.

Yankees 7, Indians 6, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Aaron Hicks delivered an RBI double off Oliver Perez (1-1) with two outs as New York overcame errors in the ninth by stars Aroldis Chapman (1-1) and Didi Gregorius and avoided a sweep.

The Yankees headed home to a Subway Series matchup against the Mets after blowing a 5-0 lead in the sixth and a 6-5

advantage in the ninth,

Stephen Tarpley, recalled earlier when the Yankees placed Domingo German on the injured list, struck out the side in the 10th for his first big league save.

Rays 6, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Brandon Lowe hit a pair of solo homers that totaled 890 feet, and Blake Snell (4-5) allowed one run and five hits over six innings for Tampa Bay, which took three of four from the World Series champions.

Guillermo Heredia and Yandy Diaz also hit solo shots, and Lowe added an RBI single for Tampa Bay, which at 40-24 matched its season-high at 16 games over .500. Diaz had four hits.

Eduardo Rodriguez (6-4) gave up four runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings with sev-

en strikeouts.

Braves 7, Marlins 6, 12 innings

In Miami, Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a three-run homer as Atlanta overcame a 5-1, ninth-inning deficit against Sergio Romo, and Matt Joyce delivered a tiebreaking RBI single in the 12th off Adam Conley (1-6).

Atlanta (36-29) climbed seven games above .500 for the first time this year and won its seventh consecutive game in Miami, a record in the series.

Dan Winkler (3-1) retired both batters he faced in the 11th. Josh Tomlin, the Braves' eighth pitcher, worked around a one-out single in the 12th for his first big league save.

Mets 6, Rockies 1

In New York, Noah Syndergaard (4-4) allowed one hit in seven shutout innings, and Todd Frazier homered and drove in four runs off Jeff Hoffman (1-3).

Jeury Familia and Hector Santiago finished the two-hitter as New York took two of three from the Rockies to complete a 4-2 homestand. Up next, the first two Subway Series games of the season at Yankee Stadium.

Colorado won 10 of 12 before dropping the final two games of the series.

Twins 12, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Nelson Cruz homered for the fourth straight game and Miguel Sano, Byron Buxton and Eddie Rosario also connected.

Jake Odorizzi (9-2) allowed one run on five hits and one walk in six innings. He has given up just one run in his past 22 1/3 innings.

Ryan Carpenter (1-3) was tagged for eight runs and 10 hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Astros 4, Orioles 0

In Houston, Yordan Alvarez hit a two-run homer in his major league debut, connecting off Dylan Bundy (3-7) in the fourth inning. The 21-year-old was called up from Triple-A Round Rock before the game while leading the Pacific Coast League with 23 home runs.

Wade Miley (6-3) yielded six hits and struck out five in six-plus innings.

White Sox 5, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Eloy Jimenez launched a 471-foot home run, and Reynaldo Lopez (4-6) allowed one run and four hits in six innings.

Yoan Moncada had four hits and an RBI for the White Sox, who lost the series opener but had back-to-back solid pitching performances to take the last two games.

Diamondbacks 8, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Carson Kelly and Ketel Marte homered during an eight-run burst in the third inning and Arizona completed a three-game sweep.

Robbie Ray (5-3) struck out 10 in 6 2/3 innings to snap a two-start losing streak as the Diamondbacks recorded their fifth sweep.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a solo home run for the Blue Jays, who have lost four in a row and 14 of 16.

Dodgers 1, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Walker Buehler (7-1) and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, and Max Muncy homered into

McCovey Cove off Madison Bumgarner (3-6) in the first inning, then exchanged words with the ace as he rounded the bases.

Buehler allowed five hits, struck out nine and walked one over seven innings. Pedro Baez worked around a walk in the eighth, and Kenley Jansen struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 19th save.

Mariners 9, Angels 3

In California, Edwin Encarnacion hit two homers, including the 400th of his career, and Tom Murphy added two more.

Encarnacion and Daniel Vogelbach hit back-to-back homers in the sixth, and Encarnacion added a solo shot in the seventh for his AL-leading 20th homer this season.

Athletics 9, Rangers 8

In Arlington, Texas, Khris Davis homered for the first time in nearly a month as Oakland built an 8-0 lead and hung on Sunday for a four-game split.

Davis hit a two-run homer off Drew Smyly (1-5) in the third inning, his 13th home run this season but first since May 13. Davis sustained a left hip and oblique injury on May 5, tried to played through it and was out from May 22-31.

Cubs 5, Cardinals 1

In Chicago, Kyle Hendricks tossed one-run ball over seven innings to win his sixth straight decision as Chicago completed the three-game sweep.

Carlos Gonzalez hit his first homer with the Cubs and Kyle Schwarber went 2 for 3 with two RBIs.

Hendricks (7-4) scattered eight hits and improved to 7-0 in his last 10 games. Pedro Strop got his seventh save.

David Ortiz shot in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Former Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz was ambushed by a man who got off a motorcycle and shot him in the back at close range Sunday night in his native Dominican Republic, authorities said.

Dominican National Police Director Ney Aldrin Bautista Almonte said Ortiz was at the Dial Bar and Lounge in Santo Domingo around 8:50 p.m. when the gunman approached from behind and shot him. Ortiz was taken to the Abel Gonzalez clinic, where he underwent surgery, and his condition was stable, Bautista said.

Ortiz's father, Leo, speak-

ing to reporters outside the clinic, said his son was out of danger and there wasn't any collateral damage, meaning there was no damage to major organs. He said he had no idea why someone would have shot at his son.

"He is out of surgery and stable; he is resting," Leo Ortiz said. "Big Papi will be around for a long time."

The alleged gunman was captured and beaten by a crowd of people at the bar, Bautista said. He said police are waiting until the man undergoes treatment for his injuries before questioning him.

Investigators are trying to determine whether Ortiz was the intended target,

Bautista said.

The Boston Red Sox, in a statement early Monday, said they have been notified by Ortiz's family that the former slugger sustained a gunshot wound to his "lower back/abdominal region" and that he is recovering after surgery.

The Red Sox said they offered the Ortiz family "all available resources to aid in his recovery" and they will continue to keep them in their hearts.

The Dial Bar and Lounge is located in eastern Santo Domingo on Venezuela Avenue, a bustling nightlife district packed with dance clubs and pricey bars that Ortiz is known to frequent.

Italy stuns Australia; England nips Scotland

FRANCE (AP)—Barbara Bonansea scored twice, including the game-winner in stoppage time, as Italy upset Australia, 2-1.

Bonansea got past Australian captain Sam Kerr with a header that caught goalkeeper Lydia Williams off guard in the fifth minute of stoppage time. The Juventus player also had the equalizer in the 56th minute for the 15th-ranked Italians, who are making their first appearance in the World Cup since 1999.

Sam Kerr, playing in her third World Cup, scored her first-ever goal in the tournament in the 22nd minute for the sixth-ranked Matildas. She celebrated by punching the corner flag in a tribute to Australia soccer great Tim Cahill.

Meanwhile, sitting in her hotel on the French Riviera on the eve of her World Cup debut, England forward Nikita Parris suddenly felt an unexpected twinge of nerves.

"I'm not going to lie to you," Parris said. "I said to Abbie (McManus), my roommate, 'I've got butterflies.' I hadn't experienced it before."



Parris went to sleep.

"And they had gone," she said.

That was clear 14 minutes into her first game on soccer's biggest stage Sunday when Parris set England on its way to a 2-1 victory over World Cup newcomer Scotland in its opening game in Group D on Sunday.

After Fran Kirby's cross hit Nicola Docherty's outstretched

arm—and a video review confirmed a penalty—Parris stepped up to send the ball past goalkeeper Lee Alexander.

"The atmosphere is there to intimidate you," Parris said. "The more atmosphere I get in my body, the more passionate I am about putting the ball in the back of the net."

England did that again but

Ellen White's shot was ruled out for an offside when she was already celebrating.

But she was putting her hands back to her eyes again in the 40th minute—imitating the celebration of former Nice player Anthony Modeste. After Fran Kirby won a 50-50 ball with Rachel Corsie, the ball was released for White to

Italy's goalkeeper Laura Giuliani, right, and Italy's Aurora Galli, center, make a save against Australia's Chloe Logarzo, left, during the Women's World Cup Group C soccer match at the Stade du Hainaut in Valenciennes, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

curl into the net.

"We were only 2-0 at half-time," Parris said, "and then we came out too complacent."

There was no repeat of England's 6-0 rout of its neighbor at the European Championship two years ago.

But Scotland ensured it was a nervy end for England coach Phil Neville's side after Claire Emslie pulled one back in the 79th. The 20th-ranked Scots couldn't produce an equalizer against No. 3 England in Group D, which also features Japan and Argentina.

"I suppose the disappointment leaving the game," Neville said, "and it's the standards that we have set—is that in the second half we need to keep the ball better. So we have to keep driving those standards, we have to keep being ruthless. But it's good to get the

first game out of the way."

Brazil 3, Jamaica 0

Cristiane scored all three goals and Brazil spoiled Jamaica's first-ever Women's World Cup match with a shutout victory.

The veteran forward's goal in the 64th minute for the hat trick came on a free kick that curled

just under the crossbar. She also scored in the 15th and 50th minutes for the Brazilians, who were playing without star Marta. The six-time women's world player of the year was ruled out of the match because of a left thigh injury.

Brazil stopped a nine-game losing streak that began with a 4-1 defeat to the U.S. last Aug. 2.

The loss could have been worse for the Reggae Girlz, but goalkeeper Sydney Schneider stopped Andressa's penalty kick in the 38th minute. The save prompted countryman Usain Bolt to tweet "Yes mi keeper." Jamaica is the first Caribbean nation to play in the Women's World Cup.

It is Brazil's first hat trick in a World Cup since 1999. Cristiane is the ninth player overall to score 10 career World Cup goals; Marta holds the record with 15.

USWNT players respond to Solo's criticism

REIMS, France—When U.S. women's national team players took questions from the media on Sunday, it quickly became clear the most topical figure was someone not even on it.

Have the players seen Hope Solo's comments criticizing coach Jill Ellis as a poor leader who cracks under pressure, a reporter asked?

"I haven't been on social media since we left New York, so I'm not really sure what's going on," said goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, shrugging.

"Same," said midfielder Julie Ertz. "They've basically

created a bubble for us."

Does it annoy them that Naeher can't escape questions about Solo's legacy and filling her shoes, another journalist asked?

"Yeah," Ertz said, matter-of-factly. "No one's just given her time yet. We know who she is. We train with her every single day. We know how good she is."

At another table a few feet from Ertz, Naeher was being asked about—you guessed it—Solo.

"Obviously she has an incredible legacy," Naeher said. "She was a great player for

this team and she was a great goalkeeper. She represented this team for a very long time at a high level and she was one of the best goalkeepers in the world for a long time. I have a lot of respect for the career that she had."

With the Americans set to kick off their World Cup on Tuesday against Thailand and looking like locks to cruise through the group stage, the drama and intrigue surrounding the team has had to come from somewhere else. Solo, thanks to her off-field bluntness and on-field success, offers

plenty of storylines.

While Solo's comments about Ellis on BBC's World Cup podcast Friday spread like wildfire, it's not as if Solo has been out of everyone's minds.

There's a reason for that. Solo was a superior shot-stopper, saving a higher percentage of shots than Naeher has and stacking more clean sheets along the way. Briana Scurry, the goalkeeping legend before Solo, hasn't been quiet either, expressing concern about whether Naeher has the mental toughness that she and Solo had.

KIM

From Page 28

6-0, 6-0. The top finishers in the four groups after the pool play will move into the semis.

In the boys U16 singles, No. 1 seed Sean Lee of the CNMI was all business on Day 1, as he blanked No. 4 and FSM bet Deavyn Etscheit, while Isaac Heo went 1-for-2 in the opening day, as he lost to Etscheit, 3-6, 0-6, and then won over Guam's Jacob San Augustin, 6-3, 6-0, in the Group A matches.

In Group B, No. 2 Sam Ryu also prevailed in his opener after downing fellow CNMI player and No. 3 Eugene Park, 6-2, 6-2, while the latter got into the win column after crushing Cory Lee, also of the CNMI, 6-0, 6-0.

In the girls U16 singles, FSM's Anne Skilling and Rid-



Palau's Galyah Mikel makes a backhand return to the Federated State of Micronesia's Arthisha Malarne during their girls U14 singles game in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ianne Wolphagen won the pair of opening games after prevailing against Isabella Sipos, also from FSM, 6-0, 6-1, and the CNMI's Maria Gregoire, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, respectively. Only four players are entered in the division.

Meanwhile, the U12 age group competition (team event) also kicked off yesterday. The CNMI 1's Irin Chung and Dana Lee cruised to a 3-0 win over CNMI 2's Hoo Wang, Savita Sikkil, and Anna Kwon in the girls division.

In other results, Guam Girls 1 shut down Guam 3 and FSM Girls 1 dominated FSM Girls 2, 3-0, before edging Guam 2, 2-1. In the boys division, Guam 1 topped FSM 1, 3-0; while CNMI 1's June Yu, and Juncheol Hwang nipped Guam 2's Logan Schembari, Gannon Sweeney and David San Augustin, 2-1.

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in the winner-take-all finale.

McDonald's was just ahead by 2 after two complete innings, 5-3, before it broke away in the pivotal third to deny the Little Legals back-to-back championships.

M.J. Tudela scored two runs at the top of the third and his second at bat in the same inning brought home two runners. Peter Tomokane also delivered two runs and had a single and triple in his two trips at the plate. Dylan Delos Santos, Ezra Ada, and Isaiah Mesa contributed one run apiece with the first two also making RBI single each and the latter hitting an RBI double. Joey Dela Cruz and Casey Chambers were the other McDonald's players who reached home in the crucial top of the third inning, giving their team a 14-3 lead.

McDonald's went on to keep the double-digit spread, 14-4, as the Little Legals countered with only one run at the bottom of the third with Greg Perez's single driving in Albert Adriano. McDonald's then pulled away further at the top of the fourth after Joey Dela Cruz's RBI single and Ada's run, leaving the Little Legals' chance for a title defense in limbo.

Mesa, who pitched in no relief for McDonald's, went on to bury the Little Legals as he struck out the latter's first three batters at the bottom of

the fourth inning and lifted his squad to the early title win via 10-run mercy rule.

The McDonald's pitching ace finished his impressive game in the finale with 10 strikeouts after throwing a three-hitter. He also forced the Little Legals to a quick 1-2-3 in the second inning after fanning out Santiago Seman, Jess Norita, and Franklin Delos Santos.

On offense, Mesa was 3-for-3 at bat and contributed two runs and three RBIs. Tudela also had three RBIs off his 2-for-2 performance at the plate and made three runs, while Dela Cruz, Chambers, Santos, and Ada added two runs apiece.

Dela Cruz, Chambers, Mesa, Tudela, and Tomokane reached at the top of the first inning to give McDonald's early control of the match. Albert Adriano, who did not pitch for McDonald's after reaching the limit in their semis game and instead played at shortstop, hit a double that drove in Santos at the bottom of the first and he later scored off Austin Diaz's double. Pinch runner Brandon Babauta recorded the other run for the Little Legals in the first inning.

The Little Legals returned to the finals after downing No. 4 seed Falcons in the semifinals last Saturday, while McDonald's advanced as it stunned No. 2 Comets in the other Final Four pairing. The Comets settled for the third place honors after outclassing the Falcons in the consolation match last Sunday, 10-8.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Kim takes early lead in girls U14 singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Helen Kim swept her pair of opening games in the girls U14 singles event in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships that kicked off yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Helen Kim returns to Guam's Randiann Atento during their girls U14 singles game in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Kim won, 6-0, 6-1.

Kim, seeded No. 4 in the division, first defeated the unranked Randiann Atento of Guam, 6-0, 6-1, at the AMP court, and then returned at the same venue to pull off an upset over No. 1 and fellow Commonwealth player Hyejin Elliot, 6-4, 6-2, and take the early lead in the Group A pool play. Elliot settled for a 1-1 record on Day 1 of the tournament, as she earlier topped the Federated States of Micronesia's Movia Jerry, 6-1, 7-6.

In other results in Group A, Palau's Galyah Mikel dominated FSM's Artisha Malarme, 6-0, 6-0; Malarme



edged Atento, 6-2, 6-1; and Jerry swept Mikel, 6-3, 6-3. In Group B, FSM's Leila Etscheit went 2-0 in the opening day after beating No. 2 Ngelittle Silmai of Palau, 6-4, 6-0, and compatriot Nicola Pateron, 6-0, 6-1. Guam's Alicia Addison was also perfect on Day 1 following her victory over the CNMI's Serin Chung, 6-2, 6-3, and Pateron, 6-0, 6-1.

The Top 2 finishers in each pool will advance to the semifinals of the girls U14 singles division and players in the age group and other categories are also battling for slots on the

North Pacific Team that will compete in the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji this summer.

In the boys U14 singles, Guam's Arjan Sachdev outclassed the CNMI's Eubin Park, 7-6, 6-0; FSM's Theodore Ned shut down Guam's Nathan San Augustin; the CNMI's Anthony Gregoire swept Palau's Kaekoa Mamis, 6-2, 6-2; Guam's Jacob Jackson defeated compatriot's Mason Taitano, 6-0, 6-1; the CNMI's David Kwon nosed out Palau's Ton Perez, 7-6, 6-4; and Guam's Aarman beat the CNMI's Ki Suk Lee,

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McDonald's upsets Little Legals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

McDonald's Joey Dela Cruz checks on what's happening in the outfield first before heading home, while coach Patrick Tenorio, Jr. gestures to their other runners during their semis game against the Comets.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's players and coaches pose for a photo after stunning the Kagman Little Legals, 16-4, in the Majors division finals in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

NMSA to pay for \$750 airfare, plus per diem

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has provided a substantial financial assistance to the CNMI's delegates to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa this summer.

The association has approved \$750 for the airfare of each participant plus the per

diem (\$35 per day) for the quadrennial competition that will run from July 7 to 20. Checks for the airfare assistance have been released to some local sports federations sending athletes and officials last week, while NMSA will directly pay the per diem to the organizers in Samoa. Team CNMI will be repre-



sented in the Pacific Games by more than 40 athletes and officials and the cost to participate in the competition is estimated at a little over \$3,000 with more than half of it to be spent for the airfare. The financial assistance was higher than the initial plan of \$500, as some federations backed out from the Games due to funding prob-

lems. The money that NMSA is using to help send CNMI athletes and officials to Samoa and other off-island tournaments comes from its earnings from lottery/scratchies.

The Commonwealth will be fielding athletes/teams in seven sports in this year's Pacific Games: athletics, beach volleyball, swimming, tennis, badminton, canoe (V1), and golf.

McDonald's dethroned the Kagman Little Legals following a 16-4 triumph in the Majors division finals in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.



A nine-run top of the third inning helped No. 3 seed

McDonald's upset No. 1 and 2018 champions Little Legals

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